

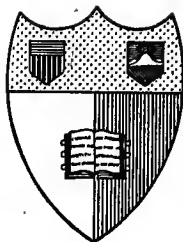
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Letters
from
Professor T. J. Mulvany R.H.A.
during
1825 - 1845



'He in his own generation served the
counsel of God'

Acts. 13. 36.



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Letters from Thomas J. Mulvany, R. H. A.



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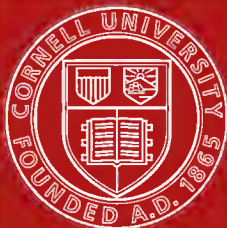
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Dear Miss Smith
in grateful love
for her continual
kindness & me and
mine from

A. L. Mackay (Nannie)

Düsseldorf

March 17th St Patrick's Day
1908



Cornell University
Library

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* 1779

† 1845



THOMAS J. MULVANY ESQRE
Professor and Director of the
Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin, Ireland

"After he had served his own generation
by the will of God, fell on sleep and
was laid unto his fathers." Acts 13. 36.

LETTERS

FROM

PROFESSOR THOMAS J. MULVANY R. H. A.

TO HIS ELDEST SON

WILLIAM T. MULVANY ESQRE.

ROYAL COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS IRELAND

FROM

1825—1845

AND APPENDIX CONTAINING CORRESPONDENCE WITH

SIR THOMAS LAWRENCE

AND OBITUARIES.



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PREFACE.

MY Grandfather Thomas J. Mulvany and his brother John lost their Father in early childhood and were brought up by a Roman Catholic Bishop (the one mentioned in the third letter of 11 Dec. 1826). They both became artists, my Grandfather was made a professor, he was a very popular man and charming in conversation.

A. C. MULVANY 1907.

His Epitaph in Mount Jerome Cemetery, Dublin was as follows:

Thomas J. Mulvany

Member of the Royal Hibernian Academy

died Feb. 27th. aged 65 years.

—.—

An eye quick to perceive a tongue eloquent
to proclaim

A hand skilled to delineate the beauties of
God's wonderful Creation,

Lie mouldering here.

A heart that throbbed but for its fellow,
beats no more

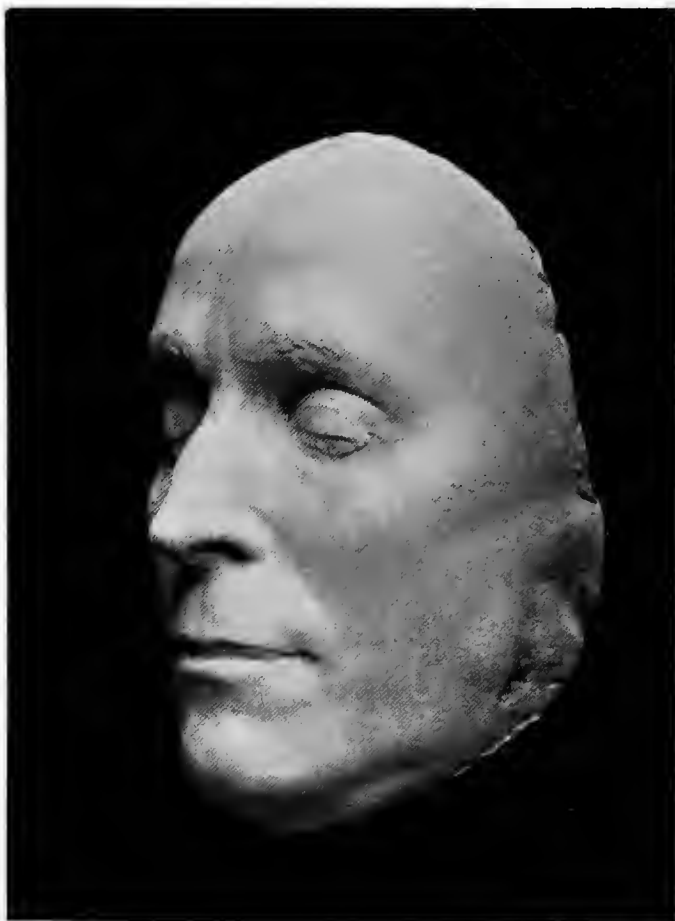
The soul of genius is gone to thy God
whom it adored

It's memory

Cherished by a sorrowing family

Lives in the hearts of

Surviving friends.



The death mask of Professor THOMAS J. MULVANY
February 1845.



LINES
TO THE MEMORY OF THE LATE
THOMAS J. MULVANY ESQ.

"A man he was, take him for all and all,
We ne'er shall look upon his like again."

Shakespeare.

In this bright age, where talent reigns supreme,
Mulvany liv'd an honor to his name;
His soul has fled, and he we wish'd so well,
Sleeps undisturb'd, but still the wish shall dwell
Within each honest breast, for him now gone
To meet his God, the just and gifted one.
Although in Death's embrace, he left behind,
What men on earth ought have, to deck the mind:
A feeling heart, devoid of human guile,
A tear for pity's sake, for joy, a smile;
And O! what's more, an independent name,
The sure forerunner of an honest fame.
These he possess'd, the precious gifts of Heav'n,
Gifts, which are rarely to us mortals giv'n.
He pictur'd life, and gave it all its charms,
While nature smil'd, and sank into his arms;
She claim'd him as her child, and lov'd him well,
For well she knew, her beauties he could tell.
How blest is he, who can command the art
To pourtray nature, and her gifts impart;
To hold the mirror up, and show the man,
His course through life, his vice and virtue's scan;
To you departed one, that gift was given,

To you that thought was sent express from Heav'n.
Oh, Death! relentless death, your worst is done,
You robb'd fair science of her favourite one;
You caus'd much pain, and sorrowing tears to flow,
From kindred eyes for him, whom you laid low.
A time there was, when round the cheerful fire,
His children gaz'd with rapture on their sire;
To them his sound advice was always giv'n,
How they should live, to be possess'd of Heav'n;
To them he did unfold his Godlike plan;
To show compassion for their fellow man;
To chase affliction from each suff'ring breast.
And gently soothe the tortur'd mind to rest.
Such was the happy sphere in which he mov'd,
By all respected, honor'd, and belov'd.
Long shall his loss be felt by those who knew
His private worth, and brilliant talents too.
More would I say, but nature holds her reign,
To her I must submit, more would be vain. —
One parting word, and that I freely say,
May hearts like his be ever in the way.

J. K.

Richmond Harbour, 15th July 1845.



Royal Hibernian Academy,
Saturday October 8th 1825.

My dear William,

THE inclosed came here eve-yesterday accompanying a five Guinea Box of Instruments as a present to you, the instruments will be permanently useful and valuable to you, yet I am persuaded that you will value the letter more than even these. — It gratifies me exceedingly to find that the personage from whom they come feels so much interest in your success, you have every reason to hope for the most favourable results from such.

I send it to you because I know it will gratify my friend John Cusack.

To

William T. Mulvany Esq.

Your affectionate father
THOMAS J. MULVANY.

October 5th 1825.

My dear Sir,

ALLOW me to be the medium of offering to your acceptance a trifle in itself, but which you will not consider as such when you view it as the testimony of the deeply rooted esteem and regard which your father's character and acquirements have long excited in a mind of no common order. (Archbishop G. Magee of Dublin was the giver.)

Such feelings strongly entertained will naturally turn to you as to the first object of his anxieties, his exertions and his comforts and as such this little gift is presented with cordial confidence that you will thro' life illustrate the distinguished advantage of having had such an example.

Believe me my dear Sir, very truly and faithfully yours

To

William T. Mulvany Esq.

MARY J. VINOIT.

Royal Hibernian Academy,
5 December /26.

My dearest William,

I never longed so much for any thing as to have a letter from you, we were all anxiously watching the post-man this morning but on opening your letter we were depressed to wretchedness to find you write in such very, very bad spirits, why is it my darling fellow, that you, possessed with such talents and with such a mind, could allow yourself to be made unhappy by the apparent want of present success? can there be to a young man entering a profession or pursuit anything more cheering than to find that the

only means of attaining eminence, are those which he possesses, a good education, commanding talents and the principles of a gentleman? can any assurance be more gratifying to him who is thus prepared, than to find that he cannot be jostled in his path by presuming ignorance nor kept back by any of the many coloured intrigues of the servile sycophant? that in fact he is not called upon to cringe or stoop to the successful blockhead or what is worse, the triumphant but contemptible blackguard who by meanness and gratuitous flattery has lifted himself above his betters, that in short he has only to exert his talents, to put forth his claims and to have them acknowledged, is not this a noble field for exertion? does it not furnish every stimulant for industry? and at the same time, give every assurance, nay security for both success and station and if there be a being on earth more peculiarly fitted for the contest, both by feeling and a justly regulated notion of true ambition, it is yourself, therefore my darling William, rest assured that you will very soon be deemed by your officers as one of the most useful and necessary members of the corps. — Besides you do not enter it, as many do with no other object in view and consequently obliged to submit to a long continuance of low and insufficient pay. You merely desire to acquire that degree of practical knowledge which in any other service you could not hope to possess yourself of and having done that you have done all you wanted to do and consequently leave it at any time you please. Poor Mama, Eliza and George have been wretched since you left us, how I have felt, you will be better able to imagine when you have reared a son to your age and have parted with such a son — I leave a space for each to write a few lines to you — they will therefore speak for themselves, write to me on Sunday next a long and a particular letter. --

Farewell my darling William, and if you will but estimate yourself as I estimate you, you will succeed

Your ever affectionate father

THOMAS J. MULVANY.

Royal Hibernian Academy,
December 11th 1826.

My dearest William,

I find by your letter that you have not yet been able to atone to Captain Yule for the original sin, of having been recommended by the Archbishop. — I cannot well understand this business, Major Reid and the Captain have either an aversion to Archbishops or have fancied that they perceived in your manner, some loftiness which they supposed grew out of the confidence which they may imagine you to feel in such recommendation, or what is infinitely more probable, they as english men may have been instructed from the other side not to attend to any of the many recommendations or jobbings with which they might occasionally be assailed, — and in the discharge of this, their duty, they may have indulged towards you, in all the haughtiness of “brief Authority”.

In whatever light you may regard it there is one thing clear and that is, that it becomes your duty my darling fellow to do everything in your power to do away any unjust impression which this said Captain may have on his mind, — this you can do and with very little forbearance too, and you have this gratifying assurance to cheer you up in the effort, -- namely, that whenever any man acts with wanton severity towards another, either from the instigation of a bad feeling, or from a misconception of that person's real character, — the moment he is set right by the mild and gentlemanly endurance, or talented exertions of that person, — he becomes doubly anxious to make amends for the injury done to either the feelings or the prospects of him whom he had previously misunderstood. The certainty of this reaction of the best feelings of the heart in order to make amends for the wanton freaks of tyranny, has often been to the oppressed and ill-treated, their only foundation for patient endurance and I verily believe that when persevered in, it has never been known to fail. The wisdom as well as the mercy of God is evidenced in this fact that our own happiness is connected with the exercise of our kindly feelings, he who would treat another

ill, gets tired at last of the pain he feels by so doing, — and is taught to be generous from selfishness, — this re-assertion of humanity is the corrector of arrogance and is the anchor of the oppressed, you will find it so, depend upon it and the station that is attained by such ordeals is not only permanent but is honourable also. —

There is one part of your letter that is by no means satisfactory to me, I allude to that passage in which you speak of Major Reid's letter to his Grace, — you say that you dont recollect the language of that letter, — surely it was not necessary to recollect the language of it in order to tell me the substance of it, therefore write to me by return of post and tell me all the particulars of it, I have not heard anything of it before and as you have seen it I would not wish, if I should see the Bishop to be uninformed of its contents.

Tell me also what you mean by "military trowsers" because they may as well be made just as you wish them, as not, — mention every particular that you would wish me to attend to for you — I sent you the "Weekly Freeman" on Saturday evening and I intend to do so every Saturday. Therefore if at any time it should not arrive in time let me know. —

Poor Mama is breaking her heart after you. I frequently find her crying in the middle of the night, I would not pain you by telling you this but that I feel that you have a right to so noble a reward (and it is a noble reward) for your undeviating duty and affection. — Eliza and George are like spectres indeed poor George I fear will not soon recover the shock that he experienced in parting with you, how must I feel my darling William? but no matter, we'll soon meet I hope, I am so anxious to send this off by this post that I am quite in a fuss about it and with a great deal to say and a wish to say all, I fear I can say little else than, that I am,

My dearest, dearest William,

To

William Mulvany Esq.

Mooney's Hotel, Coleraine.

your affectionate father

THOMAS J. MULVANY.

20 December 1826.

My dearest William,

I shall write to you in the course of the next week. When you write to George give us a most circumstantial detail of your progress, you see that the return of kindly feelings towards you, on the part of Capt. Yule has been just as I prophesied in my letter, you may rest assured of this fact that he and every other officer on your station, will in a very short time not only feel the advantage of your services, but will have the honesty too, to acknowledge it and will yet be to you real friends — your security in this assurance rests on the best of all possible foundations, educated talents and gentlemanly deportment, qualities, which I apprehend are not often combined in the persons of those who may offer themselves to the service. — God bless you my darling fellow and send you every success — poor Mamma is more grieved at your absence that I can describe.

THOMAS J. MULVANY.

Royal Hibernian Academy,
Christmas Day 1826.

My dearest William,

I sit down to write this letter, with feelings of a very mixed character, happiness at seeing in your letter to George how successfully you are getting on, and pain at finding myself without you on this day. . . . We are all unhappy at your absence, but poor Mamma, is indeed wretchedly low and dispirited on your account. I caught her in her own room about an hour ago, weeping bitterly and sitting opposite your likeness. I expostulated with her upon the folly of the thing and strove to be quite the philosopher on the occasion, but I soon found, that the father couldnt be a Philosopher, — on such an occasion. — The parent's heart wont reason, it will do nothing but feel and if the dutiful and affectionate children had no higher reward, for their love and obedience, than to know

that they are embalmed in the memory of that heart, which gave them birth, surely that would be of itself, a sufficient remuneration, for all their worth — but there is a higher and nobler reward that awaits them hereafter the approbation of God himself — and that you will enjoy that blessed approval I feel confidently assured of — therefore my darling fellow proceed in the same path in which you have trodden from your infancy, the path of truth, of honour, of religion — and you will enjoy the reward, by being esteemed, respected and happy — it is true that you cannot expect to enjoy these rewards uninterruptedly through life, you will occasionally be doomed to a temporary suspension of them, you may for instance find yourself misrepresented by your enemies, misunderstood by even your friends and rendered for awhile unhappy by the hollowness and ingratitude of the world, but you will not be deserted during these intervals, on the contrary you will find yourself based on the surest of all foundations, a pure conscience, and an undiminished self-respect and each of these trials, for they are indeed trials to an honourable mind, will give stability to your character and station in society, inasmuch as they will develope that true dignity of mind which those who possess it — will not volunteer to exhibit, but which either the misunderstandings or misstatements of the world, are so peculiarly calculated to elicit — and which may be therefore said to put the “Hall mark” upon character, not so much increasing, as publishing it's value, and thereby giving it currency — these will be the result of integrity and of truth like yours — and I cannot my dear, dear William, wish you a better wish than that you may be able, when you are yourself a father, to say to your son, as I now say to you, that I am proud of you as my son, as my companion and as my friend.

26 December. I just got so far yesterday and could get no further, besides I was not quite certain whether the mail went off on Christmas Day or no and indeed I was not in the best spirits for letter writing — I need not tell you how delighted I was at Captain Yule's explanatory

interview with you, it is just as I expected and it is just as both Mr. Johnston and Mr. Temple said it would be, — as to Mr. Johnston I never saw him so much excited as he was about you, he damned a certain Captain most heartily — and added “I tell you what Tom by . . . they have not such a lad amongst them as William, and mark my words his success will prove what I say” whilst other fellows will be capering about at evening parties, he will be studying his profession at home in his room and whilst those caperers will be known to the country Squires William shall be known to the board of engineers, now tell him that I said so, “he is a damned sensible fellow Tom and you will see him at the head of his profession yet, mark my words”. Such was the verbatim opinion of our friend Johnston — Mr. Temple’s was equally gratifying — I was sitting with him the other day for more than an hour we were in the back drawingroom, I was on the sofa, he seated in the arm-chair opposite the fire — he listened to me with great attention his ponderous head resting on his chest, his eyes staring almost vacantly on the blazing fire, his snuff-box grasped in his left hand and a tremendous pinch of the snuff, bruised, literally ground between the finger and thumb of his right — he was no bad likeness of Doctor Johnston at the moment — when I was done speaking — he pressed the lips closely together and moving the head solemnly and slowly and rolling those ponderous volumes of eyes until they met mine, — he began: “My dear Mr. Mulvany I wouldn’t give that pinch of snuff (flinging as much in the fire at the moment, as would have kept me sneezing for half a day), I would not I say give that for all they can do, in keeping your son back, wait Sir, he’ll prove before a month passes, whether my certificate was the language of truth, or partiality, what the devil could they mean by writing to the Archbishop? can you conceive — I can’t! — come Sir, here is my opinion for you, he must get on, he has it here, pointing to the forehead, and he is as mild and as good a lad, as ever I met. — They can’t keep him back Sir, mark my words, all that he has to do my dear

Sir, is to read, Sir, study Sir, study and read, Sir, that's the thing, Sir, study Sir, read, read hard Sir", and then applying to his nose a most bountiful dose of snuff; he added and then Sir what becomes of their high mightinesses, and then Sir? they may be damned Sir" but suddenly drawing himself up, and adopting a most conciliatory tone of voice, he added but let him be most politely attentive to those same people and studiously anxious to do everything that is his duty, and then Sir, (raising himself in the chair and gazing at me for a moment) "The field's his own Sir, depend on it". All this came warm from the heart and was said with a vehemence of regard that whilst it quite characterised the man was also highly honourable to you my dear William, indeed the estimation in which both your head and your heart is held by every creature who knows you is to me, one of the purest sources of both pride and happiness — and should be to you of inestimable value. Mr. Livingston and John dined with us yesterday, we strove to be as happy as possible, there was one person's health drunk more than once or twice, can you guess? tell me where you were and how you spent the day. — George is longing for spring to go and see you, you can form no idea of how depressed he is since you went away, he looks really ill, he is a most attached, affectionate brother — when did you get the box, I did not pay for the carriage of it, but it was to be 3 shillings to Belfast and the clerk said 2 from thence to Coleraine. Does the dressing-gown and waistcoat fit you, do you like the trowsers? — I hope to be soon able to send you the other things that I know you must want.

I am longing to see you and sit with you, I have a great many things to tell you, I have not seen any of the Jervis Street people, he sent to me, a few days after you left town to pay him what I owed him!!! — and added that he did not think that I meant to take any advantage of him, but a truce to this subject.

Sir George and Lady Whiteford are deeply interested about you I never saw him so excited about any one be-

fore, his first inquiry whenever I see him is "well Tom what news from William?"

In the inside of the lid of the box I wrote down an account of its contents did you find it all right? — poor Tom Moore would not allow me to see his letter, he said I wouldnt much like it but he said he was as fond of poor William, as any of us all. How did you like Tom's drawings and letters, write to Richard a long letter, poor Eliza is crying about you, every day she could hardly sit at table yesterday — I need not tell you that they all send their love to you. — God bless you my darling fellow, and send you every success is the wish of

your affectionate father

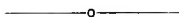
THOMAS J. MULVANY.

P. S. George I presume told you that William Thompson has got his appointment in your service at 3 shillings per diem. I sent you the "Weekly Freeman" on Saturday. We have had a most dreadful fire in Dame Street at the house of my old friend, Sir A. B. King I very much regret it, he was my Captain in the Corps I was in, during 1803.

To

William T. Mulvany Esq.

Spencers Hotel
Garvagh. Co. Derry.



Royal Hibernian Academy,
18th January 1827.

My dearest William,

YOU can hardly imagine the uneasiness which your silence gave to us all, for heaven's sake do not again leave us in the same state of uncertainty, at least without telling us that we are not to expect to hear from you for such or such a time. It is remarkable enough, that you are now in the very employment that I have been inquiring about, I mean the boundary survey. — I saw an advertisement in the "Saunders" just before Christmas from the boundary surveyors, stating that they wanted young men to act as

architects and draughtsmen on that survey and adding that the reference was to Mr. Griffith at the office of the Chief Secretary, Castle Yard, I accordingly went to the office but was informed by a Mr. Keek that Mr. Griffith was then in Mallow, Co. Cork, but that he was to be in Dublin on the 1st of January, and he added that until that period nothing would be done — I waited on Mr. Johnston, to consult with him, he said, that he could not understand the advertisement because he could not conceive what connection there existed between the boundary survey and architecture! — however I again went to the office in the hopes of ascertaining the particulars both as to duty and income, I did not go in time, it was about the 10th inst. and I was then informed by the same gentleman, Mr. Keek that Mr. Griffith had been in town on the first of the month, and having disposed of his business he went off to Londonderry, where he now is — not having seen Mr. Griffith I could get no information; my sole wish was to know the particulars; my wish was and is, that you should remain in the service into which you at first went, conceiving that it would ultimately be of the very highest advantage to you, but my reliance on your own judgement and good sense is so firmly seated that I feel assured of your doing just what you ought to do, besides my total ignorance of the localities of either your situation or the nature of the respective services renders any judgement of mine concerning the matter quite negative. So unwilling was I, to even mention the matter to you, that I did not glance at it in my letter to you. Mr. Griffith is the only member of his family to whom I am not known his father I knew intimately and I am also acquainted with both his brothers and sisters — they were one of the most amiable families I ever knew, he is also, I am told an excellent person, and from all these considerations I was anxious to speak with him upon the business, besides the architectural part of the employment was what particularly struck my eye, in the advertisement — but you are the best judge of what is to be done, — the only principle I would urge in the way of advice is this — do not seize that which offers the

greatest present advantage, if the other assures you of a greater, though remote one — this is so like virtue that I think it a safe guide, for virtue is but giving up the present for the future.

Do I understand your letter right in supposing that although by the Duke's orders, that the pay of civilians can not be more than four shillings a day yet that these civilians are competent to contract for surveys of such or such extent, at 3 or 4 pence per acre and that those contracts so entered into, might produce such a sum as you allude to? if so the hardship will, in that case rest only on such of those civilians, as shall not be capable of entering into such contracts and as you, thank God, cannot be amongst that number, it would therefore appear to me, to be a most fortunate change for you and such as like yourself can avail themselves of the advantage, — but I fear I have read your letter wrong, because if the competence to enter into such contracts be conceded to civilians, how can the survey be said to be strictly Military? but this you must inform me of, you must, my dearest William, be you ever so tired write to me on Sunday next, you can't do less when I tell you, that I have made something like an effort to write you this, I have been unwell for nearly the last ten days, on Sunday last I was prevailed upon to let some of the high blood of the Mulvanys out of my left arm, and indeed I have thought much less of the blood of the family since I saw it. I assure you it was "no great things" to look at, however I am much better, thank God, and I propose to take a walk out tomorrow, it was a heavy cold that has confined me, poor Mamma is delighted at hearing from her own William, she sends a thousand loves and blessings, so does Eliza, George, Richard, John, Mary, Tom &c. . . .

I have written this letter in such a fuss that I have omitted many things which I had desired to say to you, have you got the parcel from Thompson? do you think that he has (as his father tells me) the full pay? if so, is it not strange!

Farewell my dearest William, and that you may succeed
in all you undertake is the wish of

To

William T. Mulvany Esq.

at W. Stokes Esq. &c. &c. &c.

Ballymoney

Antrim.

your affectionate father

THOMAS J. MULVANY.

Royal Hibernian Academy,

26 Feb. 1827.

My dear, dear William,

IF you knew the agony of mind I have endured on your account you would not be at all disposed to attribute my long silence to forgetfulness, every day have I been picturing to myself the state of your wardrobe, and every day has it been to me a source of the deepest anxiety. I know my dear William what is to walk with an indifferent coat or hat, often have I done so and although I did so, in order the better to be enabled to meet the demands of a large family yet I could easily perceive by the averted eye or head of even an old acquaintance, that an indifferent external appearance did not in their estimation, entitle me to their recognition, nor did even the honourable motive that produced that appearance atone for the damnable error of appearing poor. I need not tell you my darling fellow how I felt on those occasions, how incomparably superior to such meanesses I have always deported myself, yet even with the strongest mind (and there are few if any stronger than your own) these annoyances will be felt and it was because you should be subjected to them, that I have been so grieved. — I know from long experience how much a man's success in this world depends on his appearance and although I have never paid much attention to it myself yet I would rather have a son of mine go without his dinner than be without those gentlemanly appendages, which the world looks for and in the absence of which genuine learning and worth are too often passed by and sometimes insulted. — I am however in



Commissioner WILLIAM T. MULVANY
as young man, pinx by his brother GEORGE F. MULVANY.

better spirits just this moment than I have been since I wrote last to you, because I am in hopes of getting what you want soon. I got twenty pounds this morning from Mr. Lindsay on account and after paying some "dribs and drabs" I have not much left but I don't care for that, because some accounts of pupils will soon come to me and then you shall have every thing I can give you. Write by return of post to me and let it be minutely circumstantial, tell me every thing, how you are occupied, what progress you are making, and what you would wish me to do, what I calculate on is this, that you will have acquired such a masterly and practical knowledge of surveying and engineering generally as will give you on a future occasion a commanding claim and prior title to any situation you may desire to look for, in this opinion I am strengthened by the conversation I have had with a Captain Cranfield who has been employed in the Engineer service and who is now taking lessons from me in order to fit himself for land surveying and civil Engineering he says that so few of the many that may have offered or may have been employed as civil assistants in your service will be found competent (or willing, even if competent) to remain with the Corps that the few who will prove their usefulness, may be sure of being permanently served by it. — Now this all appears to me perfectly true, but I know that many things appear true, that are not so and I would wish you to set me right upon this subject. Tell me also how long you are to remain on the boundary survey and when you have had any communication with either Yule or Cheater, tell me also whether you think that sending you to the boundary survey originated in a desire to make you more extensively useful, or whether it may not have been one of those "ruse de guère", to get rid of a civil assistant, to engage whom it would appear neither Reid, Yule nor Cheater were sanctioned by the Duke of Wellington. — This may be all idle conjecture in me, or it may be near the truth — tell me what you think. As soon as I can send down the trunk I intend to write to Miss McNeile, who is intimately acquainted with most of the best families in the North. She will

pave the way for that which I so much desire, namely your introduction to the gentlemen of the county and these things have a powerful influence on a man's future prospects through life and you my dear William have only to be known; to be loved and respected. Eliza will say something for herself underneath. God bless you my dearest William is the anxious wish of

To

your affectionate father

William T. Mulvany Esq.

THOMAS J. MULVANY.

Ballycastle

Antrim.

Royal Hibernian Academy,

11 March 1827.

My dearest William,

THIS day you are twenty one years old, or as the legal phrase is, you are "of age" and I sit down to tell you what I hope you will be able to tell your son should you have one, that I am alike proud of both your head and heart that in fact I cannot conceive it possible for any child to give to a father's heart, more unqualified satisfaction than you have given to mine. I therefore look forward with a justifiable and well grounded hope to your future success and happiness, should I be spared to witness it, but should the Great Disposer of events order it otherwise, should I be cut off before you shall have established your character and your worth, it will not I fancy be the least affectionate recollection of me, which will remind you, that I have never under any circumstances exercised the parental authority with unkindness — much less harshness or severity. I have therefore no fear, should I live to see you advance in either years, or prosperity that the influence which I am entitled to, and which I feel that I possess, will have lost any portion of it's consequence, either in your estimation or my own as I trust it is in your knowledge of it's value and cherished as I know it will be in the best affections of your heart.

I am not my dearest William, one of those who believe that a young man when he is going out into the world, is to be loaded with a very freight of wise and most prudent advices and made a mere supercargo of the tremulous and speculative apprehensions of the garrulous and the old, few of those who have been so sent afloat have ever been much the better of it, if principles of religion and of truth have been previously implanted in the mind, if virtue and integrity have regulated the conduct up to one and twenty — there is little to be apprehended from any admixture with the world, regulated as I know yours will ever be by good taste and honourable feeling. — If on the contrary, religious and virtuous feelings have not influenced the mind in early life there is little to be hoped from either advice or admonition I shall therefore my dear fellow in the name of God Almighty hand you over under the guidance of His grace to your own superintendence and I feel (thanks to my God) a confident assurance that you will be to me a source of happiness and of pride — happiness because I am convinced you will ever be a man of virtue and of truth, pride because I am equally assured that you will be a man of honour and fidelity — being so, poverty can never depress you, nor riches make you proud.

I have little my dearest William to add in the way of advice, I have never been very fond of sermonizing, example being so infinitely superior, neither do I think that you require much directions as to how you are to deport yourself — there are a few cautionary remarks however which I shall make, not because I think that they would not strike yourself but because coming from your father, I know they will be more scrupulously attended to by you — they are these: Beware of the following characters, as you value your happiness both here and hereafter, first, he who scoffs at revealed religion, secondly he who speaks slightly of female chastity, and thirdly he who is ever flinging aspersions at the government of his country, the first you will ever find, a selfish coward, the second, a heartless ruffian and the third, (to say the least of it) a discon-

tented disappointed babbler. — He who rejects the religion of the Redeemer is either a villain or an idiot, he who would lower the standard of woman's virtue, has mixed only with the abandoned and the profligate and he who can see no excellence in his governors can have none in himself — therefore my dearest William avoid them — and that God may bless you, is the wish of

your affectionate father

THOMAS J. MULVANY.

I have not said one word as you may perceive about Mamma, because she will write to you herself and because she being "bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh" therefore the personal pronoun stands for us both and you will take this letter as a joint stock production, coming from us both.

To

William T. Mulvany Esq.

&c. &c. &c.

Ordinance Survey.

Ballycastle. Co. Antrim.

Royal Hibernian Academy,
10th April 1827.

My dearest William,

THE trunk and all that I could for the present make up for you I have had ready for the last ten days. I was just about to send them when your letter arrived yesterday. — I then began to think, that although you require to be watched less then almost any person I know, yet for the mere sake of making a pertinent pun I straightways went and bought you a watch! Lest you should suppose that I had added more to your own three pounds then I really have added, it may not be amiss to tell you that this said mentor has cost no more than three guineas and an half. I bought it at Gaskins in College Green next door to our friend Sir George's — Gaskin does not place his own

name on watches of such low prices, because if he were to do so people generally speaking, would not give him the high prices he usually gets but he assured me that this watch has been manufactured in his own concerns, and he engages to take it back in 12 months if not approved of — the name marked in it is Abraham Newland, Dublin — No. 24641 there is a key also, and I send you the seal which if you lose, I'll break your head — Now having said so much about the watch let me tell you that I had intended to buy you one ever since you went away but so it was, I had it not in my power to fulfil my wishes on that subject no more then on many others.

I shall send the trunk off on Thursday and I shall go to my friend Sir Edward Lees at the Post Office in order to get a Frank that will convey the key of the trunk to you, which I shall send off by Thursday's post you will find in said trunk a suit of the best black that I could get in Dublin. viz: Coat, waistcoat and trowsers, two shirts, six white cravats, three coloured ditto, (silk and cotton) one pair of dress stockings, query can you dance? — fourteen squares of Windsor soap, one India silk handkerchief one English silk ditto — one pair of leather gaiters — one pair of ditto slippers — and one watch — one key and one seal — and at poor Tom Moore's request, one bottle of French Brandy — by the bye poor Tom is I fear in the very commencement of consumption, he is this moment sitting at the window of the room I write in, coughing in such a way as I think leaves little hope of his recovery, every interval he can seize on is occupied in telling me not to forget to send the Brandy adding "poor William, I wish I could see him, dont forget the Brandy Sir" there is another subject, which I know will grieve you, poor Eliza is again attacked with the spinal complaint she has been in bed for the last ten days — this will account for the trunk not having been sent sooner — but a truce to these melancholy subjects — we shall all I trust be better soon. I met young Mr. Temple to-day he was very anxiously kind in his inquiries about you and bade me to remember him to you, in the kindest

manner — if I were to go further in this letter I should be late for the post.

I shall write you a very circumstantial one in a few days. God bless you my darling boy — and may you encounter less of the troubles of this world than I have been obliged to encounter is the wish of

your affectionate father

To

William Mulvany Esq.

at W. Stokes Esq.

&c. &c. &c.

Ordinance Survey.

Ballycastle. Co. Antrim.

THOMAS J. MULVANY.

Royal Hibernian Academy,
June 29 1827.

My dearest William,

GEORGE'S letter to his Mamma arrived this morning, by it I find he feared I had not got his letter the other day. I did receive it. Mr. O'Neil having put it in at Belfast according to promise -- yesterday I had the pleasure of seeing Mr. O'Neil, he brought me a few lines from yourself. I induced him to come down with me to Bullock and dine with Mamma, Eliza and Aunt Mary who has been there for some days he has also promised to dine there with me on Monday next to meet Mr. Smith the clergyman of the Parish. Mr. O'Neil appears to me to be a kind hearted, sensible unsophisticated man, a person I should very much wish to know -- your Aunt Mary showed off in high style before him, she seemed quite in her element talking most knowingly of all the feasts and fasts that the church abounds with and to which Mr. O'Neil gave just as patient an hearing and indeed just such an hearing as I would be likely to give to some enthusiastic connoisseur who might think proper to deluge me, with a torrent of receipts for varnishes gumshorns and magilps imagining that the soul of art, was confined to an ingenious

use of these compositions. George I find by his letter is in the highest delight with you and the country and only fears that he cannot be long enough with you as you are to move to Londonderry he thinks in a short time. If I had money I would certainly give him an opportunity of staying longer with you, but we can't always do, that which we desire to do, and I know that George is too well convinced of my wish to gratify him, to be uneasy on the occasion. —

I must now proceed to the business part of this letter in the first place it is my intention to go to you wherever you may be stationed the moment I leave Mayo, before I return to Dublin, we shall then be able to lay down a plan of that which may be most advisable to be done. —

My present impression and convictions are these, that it is in your true interest to proceed with the same strenuous degree of exertions that you have hitherto observed, in short to do so much, and in such a way as will leave little probability of any other assistant having done so much. In this opinion I am strengthened by having Mr. Johnston and Mr. Temple both agreeing with me. Mr. Temple emphatically said "let him go on Sir, they have not another like him, let him not be in too great a hurry to be promoted let him keep an accurate account of everything that he does for them and when he can put forth a statement of service actually performed and the specific time in which those services shall have been executed, then, but not till then, can he confidently expect that attention to his claims, to which both his talents and his industry so justly entitle him; such a statement my dear Mr. Mulvany will show what others should have done and will show him to be a person who cannot with advantage to the service be parted with." — Now this my dearest William appears to me so conclusively and so convincingly reasonable that I would imagine it would be precisely your own view of the matter but when I am with you we can then better understand the business. —

With these opinions resting on my mind I would have thought it most unwise to have waited either on Reid or

Griffith -- there is another reason I had, for not going to either of these gentlemen. Roller tells me that his son is retained with the Engineer's officers -- he is at Portglenoyne with Father Lenf I think. -- now if that be the case, all the civilians are not discharged and if it should appear that favour or what I apprehend religion has mixed itself up in the officer's discharge of duty that can only be efficiently met by a plain statement of actual services done.

It is very true that it manifestly is not the policy of these officers to give to their assistants any portion of the credit (I mean with the government) which it is their interest to appropriate to themselves but when they find that a young man who has laboured in the service is about to look for that increase of pay or that appointment in the Boundary or other Survey to which his experience under their own employment has fitted him for and when in addition to this, they perceive he has friends perhaps high in power, they will then be exceedingly cautious how they will proceed, but his appeal might show the extent of their partiality, or their want of activity in the service. -- Whilst such a young man is totally under them they may very possibly imagine they can do what they please with him, but the moment that his services furnish him with a claim to the notice of their superiors then they alter their tone, and in all probability become the advocates of his wishes -- such I am sure is man, generally speaking, and such therefore I take for granted are those with whom you have to deal -- write to me by return of post, telling how far you agree with me, for recollect I but submit my opinions, for your own good discretion -- I hope to spend the latter part of August with you -- Eliza is considerably better -- Mamma and she and all send there affectionate loves to you. --

Farewell my dearest William

To

William J. Mulvany Esq.

&c. &c. &c.

Ordinance Survey.

Glenarm. Antrim.

THOMAS J. MULVANY.

— o —

13. August 1827.

My dearest William,

I commenced the inclosed on the 9th and have but now resumed it — when I am with you we'll say more upon the subject.

I attended the funeral of my poor friend Mossop this morning he died on Saturday last of apoplexy — I went to the Hospital (the Richmond Lunatic Asylum) where he has been for some months past and had a mask taken, I have not recovered the depression of mind, which I experienced on seeing the remains of my talented friend stretched on a straw bed and locked up in one of the cells, with no mother, wife or child to be at the bed of death — but left as a very outcast attended by the menials of the establishment, — but we'll leave the subject. — Your letter to John came this morning and a most excellent letter it is — it will I am persuaded produce the effect you intended to produce. John is growing up a fine boy, and so is Richard who when he had your letter to John filled up even to chocking at the idea that you supposed him ill-natured in not writing.

Farewell my dearest William

I hope to be soon with you

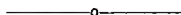
THOMAS J. MULVANY.

To

*William T. Mulvany Esq.
at William Stokes Esqre.*

Ordinance Survey.

Ballycastle.



Royal Hibernian Academy,

30th August 1827.

My dearest William,

YESTERDAY was my darling Eliza's birthday and such is my occupation, as I am now preparing for the country, that I could not spare time to go down to Bullock either to drive with them or to take tea, I sent George off early yesterday and he has not yet returned, therefore I

have opened his letter and as I find that you are anxious it should be answered without delay, I have therefore done so, on the other side you have a letter of introduction to my valued friend Mrs. Grey Porter, (Miss Lindsay that was) lose no time in delivering it. I shall be off for Mayo, in two or three days and when done there I shall come to you. Tell Mr. Porter that I hope to have the pleasure of paying my respects at KILLSKEARY very soon.

Mamma and all the family are, thank God, perfectly well. George is making the most astonishing improvement you can imagine in his profession there is no question of his yet being a first rate artist. — In your hurry you have not mentioned the particulars of your address. I must therefore only say ENNISKILLEN. . . .

God bless you my dear William, is the ardent wish of
your affectionate father

THOMAS J. MULVANY.

George sent you a very long letter yesterday through the Castle and directed for you to Stokes.

To

William T. Mulvany Esq.

Ordinance Survey.

ENNISKILLEN.

Royal Hibernian Academy,
30th of August 1827.

My dear Madam,

MY eldest son should he be fortunate enough to find you at home will have the honour of handing you this, he is at present, and has been for the last eight months employed on the general survey that is now being taken. — In thus taking the liberty of introducing him to Mr. and Mrs. Grey Porter I have not the slightest fear that I shall be considered as doing any thing very unwarrantable. Many years knowledge of your family have assured me that I should not entertain any such apprehension. — To a young



GEORGE FIELD MULVANY R. H. A.
later Director of the National Gallery, Dublin
from a painting by himself.

man entering life, the notice of those, whose rank and station may be said to be the least of their claims to respect, is of the highest importance, it gives the just bias, at the proper period and tends most powerfully in my mind to the formation of character. Pray therefore excuse the anxiety I feel that he should have the honour of being personally known to yourself and Mr. Porter.

With sentiments of respect and esteem I remain yours
most obliged

THOMAS J. MULVANY.

To

Mrs. Grey Porter

Killskeary. Enniskillen
favoured by Mr. W. T. Mulvany.

Brabazon Park,
29. October 1827.

My dearest William,

YOURS of the 23rd instant I received yesterday evening it was to me a source of the greatest gratification. I had been anxiously wishing to hear from you and indeed had been wondering that I had not even had one line from you for a long time. I have suffered a great deal from illness since I came here and as George has not given you any of the particulars, I shall give you a full and true account of all that has occurred to me since I left town, I left Dublin on the 5th of September in one of the Grand Canal Boats and came from Shannon Harbour to Ballinasloe. Sir William Brabazon requested me to come by Ballinasloe as I am to paint a picture for him of the Castle that is there, it having been the residence of his ancestors — you are aware that Lord Cloncarty has a very fine demesne and a noble mansion just adjoining the town.

George and I had been there last year looking at his very fine collection of pictures and I determined to pay them another visit and accordingly went there on the day, on which I got into Ballinasloe — his Lordship when he heard that I was in the town sent me a most polite invitation to breakfast the next morning with him. I of course

went and I don't think that I was ever received with more courtesy in the course of my life. I was introduced to the Countess and to Lord Dunloe his lordship's eldest son -- after breakfast he took me through every room in that immense house I did not get away until 1 o'clock. and just as I was about to take my departure his Lordship insisted that I should dine with him that day. I did so, and met a number of the "great" I never spent in my life a happier day. I did not leave it until 12 o'clock. The next morning he sent his servant down to my hotel with four plans and elevation of Garbally House (that is the name of his Lordship's place) and with his compliments adding that if I would call upon him at the Petty Sessions which were that day holden (Saturday) at two o'clock, that he would feel great pleasure in walking through the town of Ballinasloe with me, and showing anything that I might desire to see -- these you will say were marked attentions. When you and I are sitting at your fireside, for I shall not go to town until I see you -- I will give you all the particulars.

I met in Ballinasloe a very talented acquaintance Mr. John Hampton, architect and surveyor, he served his time to Morrisson in Dublin as a fellow apprentice with John Bowden, he is a most admirable draughtsman. -- And is also eminently skilled as an engineer, he had been for some years in London with Renny, he is now married in Ballinasloe, he has also been employed for the last two or three years by Nimmo and when I saw him he had but just returned from the north where he had been laying out roads. -- He is a most excellent fellow full of talent and brain and full of heart. -- If you had seen him in the churchyard of Ballinasloe pointing out to me his father's grave and struggling to keep the tears away whilst he spoke of him, you would require nothing more to show you what sort of man he is. -- He is a large handsome fellow as you would see in a day's walk, should you ever meet him you'll meet a friend when you mention that you are my son. -- I had long conversations with him about you and I am longing to be with you to speak them over, he

has no very high opinion of the service that you are in — I intend to spend a day with him on my way through Ballinasloe and I will then be off to you but I can't say as yet when that will be — I stopped in Ballinasloe but four days and then came on by Tuam — Sir William's gig and servant was to have met me there but by some mistake of the post I was disappointed. I had to come on to Castlebar and from there came here in a chaise — I was here for several days before the car with the pictures arrived and as the canvass on which I am painting my present picture was in that case, I of course was perfectly idle until it arrived. I mean idle with reference to this particular picture. — I made during the interval some useful studies. When the case arrived I commenced and before I had quite completed the dead-colour my illness commenced I shall now give you the "hospital Report".

Previously to my leaving town I perceived a redness and kernel-like lump in the lower point of the fore-finger of my left hand — I took no notice of it. But a short time after I came here it began, as the phrase is, "to look angry". I wrapped some muslin round it but it continued to grow worse my arm began to swell and in a few days I was unable to move with it — there is no medical advice to be had here — I was advised to poultice it with many things — and to apply chicken weed to the arm. I did so — and it still continued to get worse. I was then advised to use the warm bath (partially for the arm) I did so, and my arm is now, thank God, quite well, reduced to it's proper size and is nearly as flexible as it's companion. To which application I am to hold myself indebted for the removal of the swelling I dont know, the man who advised the chicken weed loudly proclaims, that is the remedy, whilst the person by whom the arm-bath was recommended, lustily asserts, immersion as the cause of recovery — the arm is silent on the subject and the two champions remain uncontradicted, the finger however is still frightfully bad, it is swollen to deformity the ulcer that is on it is an inch and a half square, a vast deal of proud flesh has been cut away, but

it is still likely to be a tedious business with me — I have been able to resume my pallet and brushes — thank God, this week past and I have now nearly finished the picture — I have taken it into my head that a very general change seems to have taken place in my constitution. I am now, you know, making close approaches to one of the grand climaterics — I mean the seven sevens, — should I pass this, I should have a tolerably fair chance of getting on to the nine sevens and after that, I shall be a most antiquated personage.

During my illness here, for I was confined several days to my bed — nothing could surpass the attentions of the servants and as to Sir William it is impossible to describe his courteous and delicate attentions, every delicacy that the season afforded and the choicest wines in his cellar were got for me, and all this done in that kind of way that enhances the favour ten-fold — he will be going up to Dublin the latter end of this week on his way to London — I shall go in his carriage as far as Holly-Mount when I am there I shall write to you again, letting you know when you may expect me.

Farewell my darling fellow and that you may enjoy everything that can contribute to your respectability here and your happiness hereafter is the anxious wish of

your affectionate father

THOMAS J. MULVANY.

30th. I dine this day with the Dean of Killalla (he is the Honourable Dean Gore, brother of the Earl of Arran) his Lady is a very old friend of mine. — I would much rather avoid going if I could but the thing is impossible, they live about 4 miles hence, in addition to my other illnesses I have had a severe lumbago these 5 or 6 days and I have this moment a very great pain in both my head and chest. I feel sensibly that my health is changed — and that most materially too.

To

William T. Mulvany Esq.

Ordinance Survey.
Florence Court
Fermanagh.

—————C—————

Hollymount House, Mayo,
27. Nov. 1827.

My dearest William,

YOUR letter which I got on Saturday has relieved my mind from a vast deal of anxiety. I had been deferring to write to you to the last moment in the hope that my health would allow me the enjoyment of going to spend a week with you but the truth is my dear William that I would not be able to encounter the fatigue of the journey and I felt more uneasy at this than you can well imagine. I quite agree with you that as Christmas is now so near to us, that it is better for me to wait until you can come up to me in Dublin. — But I am most anxious to see you and to consult with you on your own affairs. — If you think that you would be more likely to obtain leave by my writing to Mr. Stokes or by my waiting on Mr. Griffith tell me so, and I shall do what you desire.

I intend to leave this tomorrow (Wednesday) for Ballinasloe where I shall sleep and proceed the next day to Shannon Harbour to meet the canal boat by which I shall arrive in Dublin on Friday morning please God, I am returning home in low spirits because in bad health I have had more to contend with within the last two years than most people are aware of, the anguish of heart, which I encountered last October twelve months has sunk deeper into my mind and has more seriously affected my health than I was even myself aware of, the ingratitude and vulgar coarseness of some and the unkindness and offensive insinuations of others have been too much for my feelings and whether it is that my long illness has given me too much time to brood over these things and consequently to dwell on subjects, which a better state of health and active employment would have enabled me to forget, I know not, but this I do know that I am not the man I was, nor am I ever likely to be so again — however I shall strive to appear as well, when I go home as I can. — The attentions I have experienced from Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay exceed any thing you could well imagine this morning when sitting

in my room I saw three gentlemen, intimate friends of Mr. Lindsay's crossing the demesne, each with his gun, his brace of dogs and his servant, I asked the butler when he was bringing water into my room, where these gentlemen were going. The master wrote to them on Saturday Sir, to request that they would come here to-day to shoot as much game as possible, all of which Sir, is intended for you, and which I am to pack carefully up in a basket, now neither Mr. nor Mrs. Lindsay ever mentioned the matter to me and it is intended that I am not to know one word of it, until I am just stepping into the coach, — this one circumstance will shew you the delicacy with which they evince their kindness, these gentlemen are all excellent shots and one of them lives more than five miles from this, too far most people would say to ask a friend to come for such a purpose — the butler has this moment put his head into my room to tell me, that the dressing bell has rung, I have therefore only time to say farewell my dearest William, write to me to Dublin early next week. I am longing most anxiously to see you.

God bless you my darling fellow.

To
William T. Mulvany Esq.

Ordinance Survey.

Drumduff nr. Florence Court.

THOMAS J. MULVANY.

My dear Son,

Glendalough,
2 Sept. 1829.

ALTHOUGH you made just such inquiries and statements at the Post Office, as you ought to have made, yet I could have wished that they had not been, and for reasons that will appear to yourself when you shall have read this letter.

You got my letter of Monday's post, and are therefore in possession of the route to Newton Mount Kennedy to which my letters were sent, you are also aware that I wrote an exceedingly strong remonstrance to Sir Edward Lees on the subject and I also told you that I intended to follow it up to the utmost, but "He who turneth the hearts of the wicked ordered it otherwise".



JOHN SKIPTON MULVANY R.H.A.
4th son of Professor T. J. MULVANY architect of many
National Public Buildings in Ireland.

The facts are as follows, I sent John off to Rathdrum on Monday morning with my letter to you, one to Sir Edward and a note to the Post Master there desiring to know by what authority he had sent my letter to Newtown contrary to their directions — I bade him ask to see the Post Master himself — he did ask for him but was answered by a mild old gentlewoman thus; "there is no Post Master my dear, — I am the Post Mistress", poor John's feelings on the occasion do him honour they have shewn me what a heart he has, an apology was offered, and regret was expressed for the error and a young lad in the office (a regular num-scull, from his note) wrote to me to state that he was in error. When John returned and told me what he had done and described the old, mild, post Mistress my "heart sank within me, I pictured to myself a respectable old gentlewoman who after having reared up a family and having lost the partner of her joys and her sorrows had got that appointment in which her respectability rather than her fitness had placed her and I then looked at myself, as a miserable petulant wretch who would fling from her situation a deserving old gentlewoman, merely because my letter had been delayed a week; there was no time to be lost it was then eight o'clock in the evening and it was pitch-dark, into the bargain — I sent to procure a messenger to go off instantly to Rathdrum to stop the letter to Sir Edward — I offered eighteen pence to any one that could go, this had its effect. I got a man, but whilst I was waiting for him, I opened the num-scull's epistle, and a delicious literary "morceau" it is — he signed himself Andrew Rallon for Mrs. Leahy, the moment I saw the latter's name it struck me that the old lady, might be Leahy the artist's mother.

I wrote a note to her saying that as my son had informed me that the post office duties were discharged by her and as I knew that in such situations she must necessarily depend much on the vigilance and activity of those about her, I had therefore regretted that I had written to Sir Edward on the subject, that she should send me back that letter, as I should be grieved to think that I had forwarded a complaint

against a person for whom such large allowances should be made I also added that on hearing her name I had been alarmed lest she should be connected with an artist of that name with whom I was intimate, but that in either case I should spend a sleepless night if the complaint went forward, the messenger arrived then at half past ten, the old lady was in bed, she sent me back the letter, and bade the man tell me that the person whom I mentioned was her son! you may judge of my delight, I received a letter from her yesterday by the person who brought me yours offering her best thanks for what I had done, and adding that if my health permitted, she and her daughter would feel most happy to see me at Rathdrum; there ended the business and I am thus circumstantial in order, that you may go to the person in the secretary's office to whom you spoke and tell him that all is right, say that it was the mistake of my messenger; in order to take away any blame from Mrs. Leahy. — Tell Mamma that anxious as I am to go home to her, yet that I would rather get my looks up a little before she should see me — I would wish you to introduce John Livingston to Davis, or Major Lirr, in my name if he intends to copy any of the pictures, tell him that I advise him to do so, his recent improvement from nature (and it was a great improvement) will have admirably fitted him for the task — tell him to sit down to whatever subject he feels himself most drawn to, the adaptation of the powers of mind, to procure the results which it contemplates, seldom fails when left to itself.

I learn by the papers that one of the best men in our city is now nomore. I mean Mr. Drever, God help his family no matter how abundantly he may have provided for them, they have lost in him an amiable, affectionate protector and Dublin has lost in him the only man, with perhaps the exception of Brook and Wilson who in a commercial sense deserved to be called a merchant. I dont know any man whom I estimate or respect more.

Farewell my dear son

Royal Hibernian Academy
Dublin.

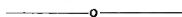
THOMAS J. MULVANY.

AFTER STORM.

The lake is calm — the air is still
The breeze has died upon the hill
And left the vale in quiet
The sun's retiring glories play
On massive rocks of russet grey
In golden hues they dye it.

So fares the mind when passions gust
Has died upon religion's breast
Leaving the heart in gladness
When hopes sweet ray, by faith made bright
Bursts on the soul in heavenly light
Dispelling every sadness.

Written by T. J. Mulvaney during his stay at Glendalough
Co. Wicklow in August—September 1829.



Royal Hibernian Academy,
Christmas Day 1829.

My dearest William,

YOU will perceive by this that I am at last at home, and now the only thing we want here to day, to complete our happiness, is to have you with us, — however as that cannot be the case our regrets at your absence find alleviation from the gratifying circumstances of knowing that you are enjoying the society of your kind friends, at Mr. Winslow's. — Eliza's description of that excellent family increases my anxiety to know them and as it is my intention to spend a month with you this summer, should I be spared so long I regret your removal from your present station, as it will thereby deprive me of the pleasure of knowing those amiable persons, of whom I have heard so much, and for whose attentions to my children, I feel myself so deeply indebted. — Eliza feels quite an affection for Mrs. Latimer and Miss Winslow. — I hope yet to see both, I have to thank Mrs. Latimer for her kind and affectionate present to

Tom, — affectionate, I say, for what better evidence of genuine love, can one Christian give to another, than to demonstrate, as such a gift ever must, a desire for their immortal welfare? — we are all the children of the same God — all redeemed by the one Mediator — all to be enriched by the same gift. Can there, therefore be a nobler evidence of honest intention, in the heirs of the same Estate, than to find them sending to each other, true copies of that Will, under which, and by which they all derive their common rights? — for my part there is no present that could be offered to a child of mine, that could so deeply impress my mind with the affection of the giver, or the value of the gift — I hope I shall live to see the day when there will not be a cabin in the land without a Bible. — When drinking from the same Source, looking to the same God and resting upon the same Rock, we may all as Irishmen merge all sectarian designations in the harmonized and glorious name of Bible Christians. — Whenever that comes to pass our country will prosper, our people will be happy — the voice of political or sectarian phrensy will be heard no more, man will no more continue to hate his neighbour for the love of God! — The political jugglers will no longer play tricks with the true liberties of the people, nor will the enrobed bigot, stimulate the worst passions of their flock in the abused name of Religion — in short the Sir Harcourt's and the O'Connell's of the land, will lie down, together in peace, and will then discover that one hour's christian tranquility of mind, and one day spent in healing those ulcers which they had so long sought to fester into madness — will outweigh all the shoutings of the corn exchange, or all the vociferating plaudits of the Derry Prentices — that such may soon be the case, must be the wish of every good man, for my part, I do not despair of yet seeing it come to pass; of course you do not suppose me to mean that all distinctions of churches shall cease. I only mean that the spirit of true religion shall become so influential on the nations heart, that names shan't separate the members of the various churches — that fighting under the same cross

they as soldiers of Christ shall not permit the peculiar facings of each regiment to make any unkind distinction in the Christian Camp. — But that when led on, that they shall fight the good fight — with order and firmness — I have been led to greater lengths on this subject than I had intended — this day makes it a subject of peculiar interest to my heart — this is the birthday of Him, who came to bring unto his own fold, the benighted sheep of his Father. — He, who from the manger to the cross preached harmony and love, whose blood flowed alike for all! — yet what does He this day look down upon? after a lapse of nineteen centuries He sees — that manger converted by ecclesiastical dexterity into a sofa of luxury! — that harmony and that love soured into separation and hatred, and that blood, sought to be restrained in its flowings, within the narrow, wretched boundaries which the presumptuous and impotently daring fingers of Rome, or Canterbury presumes to mark out! — He finds in short confusion where he planted order — hatred, where he bequeathed Love — and slavery, — where he planted the liberty of the cross — do we not see in all this the reason why He wept in the garden? which has ever been to me, the best evidence of His Divinity — He wept because, as God, He saw, to how few, his redemption would be made available — He saw the perverseness of the human heart — He therefore wept — not for his own sufferings — but, that in these instances, they should be in vain! — God grant that the nation may in time see its error — and that all party distinction may fade away before the sun of righteousness — that all emblems of party may be bound up together, and hung up, as the National rainbow of peace — they will then find that the orange, the blue and the purple and the green will harmonize into splendour and be unto the eye of hope, a glowing prestage of brightness and of joy! —

I find by your letter of this morning that your worthy friend Mr. Harding to whom I hear you are much attached, has got an increase of pay — this I am glad to hear — but I am anxious to have from you a letter on the subject

of the grounds on which increased pay is given. — I am of opinion, that favouritism has its effects in your establishment, if so we must not even hope for an advance, until we shall first have sought interest with some person of weight — tell me in your letter, if it be the sine qua non that a boundary assistant shall have served an apprenticeship to surveying? whether there is in the survey any person, having a larger salary than yourself, who has not served such apprenticeship? — whether you, yourself feel an incompetence to discharge your duties, arising from not having been bred a surveyor? — and whether that incompetence has been so pointed out by Mr. Griffith? whether the range of business on which you have been placed, is an inferior range to that on which every person having a higher pay is occupied? — and lastly whether any person, joining the survey as a professional surveyor has been placed under your instructions in order to fit them for the situation they now hold? — write me a particular and circumstantial account of all these things for I am determined to exert my interest on the occasion.

My leg is not yet well, but my health is thank God, infinitely improved and if I had you here, and a better filled purse, I should be quite happy — However you must not suppose that I am without hope. —

Mamma says that I look quite handsome! this you know is a proof of her good sense, and just discernment! — They all send their loves — Farewell my dearest William — present me, cordially to Mr. Winslow — Mrs. Latimer and all the family — and believe me your affectionate father

THOMAS J. MULVANY.

A young Lady on looking at a gentleman in company once observed, seeing him in wretched health that "he looked interestingly bilious"! — now this letter will show you, that my hand is interestingly nervous.

To
William T. Mulvany Esq.
at Daniel Winslow Esq.

Stone Brook
Ballyconnell. -----o. ---

My dear William,

I was well aware that the non-arrival of the parcel arose from want of memory not want of desire to oblige. I wish we had nothing else to trouble our heads about.

With reference to the difficulties that now oppose themselves to your well-earned promotion they are only such as occur every day, where one man's brains and well-directed activity prove the emptiness of official skulls and the fumbling movements of official hands. They are vexatious no doubt and are most keenly felt by those whose generous constructions of the motives of others, are themselves most open to trickery and selfishness. — However you can't be long or effectually put aside, your hopes don't rest on the influence, or the interest of this great man, or that; they rest upon your acknowledged activity and on your recently demonstrated fitness for office — under these circumstances your line, at least in my judgement is this — be urgent in forwarding your own claims — and, until they shall have been acknowledged be strict in withholding any extra or official knowledge. They can't do without you, and with patience, but with tact they must have you and on your own terms too, I was talking with Robert Harding the other day and I so expressed myself. — I have just had a visit from an old friend this morning whose hopes of promotion or rather appointment rest with Lord Donoughmore and through him on Lord Elliot, the latter nobleman he tells me is to arrive from England tomorrow morning. Would it not be well for you soon to see him? Men at this side of the water have heard of your labours, those at the other side, saw and witnessed them.

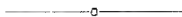
There is a meeting of the Academy to-day which I must attend but tomorrow I'll come and dine with you.

To

William T. Mulvany Esq.

Your^s affectionate

THOMAS J. MULVANY.



Royal Hibernian Academy,
17 June 1830.

My dear William,

TWO years ago and upwards when I was passing through Ballinasloe, I met an old friend Mr. Hampton, he had served his time to Morrisson the architect as a fellow apprentice of Bowden he is an admirable draughtsman and has for some years back applied himself as a surveyor and civil Engineer, he is one of the cleverest men perhaps in this country, Renny and Nimo have both had his services.

I had been telling him of your boundary occupation, he said that it was at best but a wretched employment to remain long at but he added that it might lead to something ultimately, he expressed an anxious wish to have it in his power to render you any service and the sincerity with which he then expressed himself is now amply evidenced by the kind letter which I this day received from him, and which I here transcribe.

You are yourself my dear William the best judge of what steps you had best take in this business, my want of local knowledge prevents me from being able to offer any practical advice, but if I were to say anything it would be to induce you to write to Mr. Griffith or if convenient to get leave of absence and to go to him, let me at all events hear from you, by return of post.

Coleraine,
14 June 1830.

My dear Sir,

I have just come down here as one of Mr. Griffith's Staff on the valuation survey of Ireland which has now commenced and it has occurred to me, that you having a son engaged in such pursuits you might wish to forward him in this department, if so, I think there is an opportunity of doing so at present as there will be a number of young men employed on this occasion, if however he should be better employed which I hope may be the case, you will of course take no further notice of this, but as this may not be so, I shall endeavour to give you a little information upon the

subject. — We are at present but in training or making out a future system to adopt which when fully established must be that to be adopted over the kingdom, there is to be one principal and two assistants always out, and go together in making the valuation and for each county there shall be three principals and nine assistants; — by act of Parliament the principals are to be paid at the rate of six pounds per week and the assistants three pounds, the necessary qualifications to fit them for such appointments are, to be able to survey, make maps, and if possible to be able to give in an example of each and a specimen of a valuation of such survey, but I think this latter might be dispensed with in a young man; as he will have to learn the manner of valuating on the spot here. The application for the appointment should be made to Mr. Griffith, who is now here, a good letter of recommendation to him, and a few specimens of his abilities I think would succeed at present I have been told that a young man accepting of the place of assistant, if found clever, in a little time would no doubt be advanced.

If the foregoing information should be of any use to you, I shall feel very happy but if not I shall be glad to learn that your son is better employed. Under all circumstances believe me

My dear Sir, yours most truly
JOHN HAMPTON.

P. S. You need not say from whom you have got the above information.

To
Thomas J. Mulvany Esq.
R. H. A. &c. &c. &c.
Hibernian Academy.

YOU have now my friend Hampton's letter and you can now judge what is best to be done, I shall write to him this evening to thank him for his kindness and friendship, I shall also beg of him to assist, if in his power, your appointment, lose not a moment in proceeding about it.

You'll be grieved to hear my dear William, that my darling Eliza is wretchedly ill, she has been down at Kingstown now a fortnight and yet not a sign of improvement. Richard too is very weakly — all the rest are well.

George's improvement and progress in painting surpasses all possible expectation. I am longing to see you, even if it were but a few days — I think something good would result from your waiting on Mr. Griffith, particularly as my friend Hampton is now there, but you are the best judge.

Farewell my dearest William and that you may succeed is the ardent wish of

To
William T. Mulvany Esq.
8c. 8c. 8c.
Boundary Survey
Castlebar
Mayo.

your affectionate father
THOMAS J. MULVANY.

Royal Hibernian Academy,
22 June 1830.

My dearest William,

THE moment I received your letter I sat down and wrote to my friend Hampton and as it is quite necessary that you should know what I have written to him, I therefore now transcribe a copy of it for your guidance as to what you may think proper to do. —

(Copy.)

My dear Mr. Hampton,

I have this moment had a letter from my son, in reply to the one which I wrote to him, announcing your truly kind and friendly communication, he feels in common with myself sincere gratitude for the information which you have given us. There is no service on which he would be so anxious to be employed as on that of the valuation of Ireland, because as he very properly states, there he would acquire useful know-

ledge but where he is at present he feels that he is only droning away the most valuable years of his life, and that too, for a wretched paltry salary without either an acquisition of knowledge, or being at all likely to obtain any distinction whatever, this to a young man who is desirous to bring the energies of a well regulated mind, aided by a good education into play, must be cheerless in the extreme.

My advice to him when I wrote was to obtain leave of absence for a few days and to go off to Coleraine and there to make a personal application to Mr. Griffith which I was sure would be aided by the recommendation of his superior Mr. Buck, but this he says is impracticable, first because he could not now obtain leave of absence in the present hurry of occupation and secondly because from the miserable salary which he has he cannot command sufficient funds to meet the expenses of the journey, the latter obstacle might be surmounted but the former he thinks could not.

He tells me that he has read the Act relative to the general valuation of Ireland and he feels quite persuaded that though it is there stated as an essential qualification, that those to be employed, shall have been in the practice of valuing houses and lands, yet he would, if once employed in that service, particularly if it should be his good fortune to get under my good friend Mr. Hampton be very soon found fully competent to the task. He can now survey and make maps and his competence and assiduity in the boundary service can be fairly ascertained from this fact, namely that both his former and present superiors Mr. Stokes and Mr. Buck have actually applied to Mr. Griffith for an increase of his pay, the latter gentleman has done so even unsolicitedly this fully and honourably proves that he has not been passed by from incompetence but the reason assigned was that he had not served an apprenticeship to a surveyor of lands, yet he has been for the whole of the last two years or nearly so employed on the most responsible and difficult duties, settling disputed questions of boundary surveys and for the very same occupation his friend Mr. Harding (an assistant boundary surveyor) has now three guineas a week. It is true that

Mr. Harding served his time to a surveyor but although my son still remains at the paltry salary of a guinea and an half a week yet he is even how performing the precise same duties.

Now under all these circumstances my most earnest wish would be to get him on the valuation service and if possible under yourself — If Mr. Griffith would appoint him to be your assistant, let him remain under you at his present pay until you should report him fully competent to all the duties of that service.

If Mr. Griffith's good father were now living I would have in him a strenuous advocate for my son's promotion for I was well known to him and indeed to all his family but there would be an awkwardness in me, offering any thing in that way to Mr. Griffith as he might possibly view it as an attempt on my part to seek the promotion of my son by other means than those which he himself might deem the most fitting.

I have now my dear friend stated to you the facts and you may easily imagine how I as a father feel on the occasion. I have given to all my sons the very best education and my only wish is and ever has been that they might be placed in such situations in life as would but enable them to bring the advantage of that education fully and fairly into play and thereby distinguish themselves by both their industry and acquirements. — You have it now in your power to render my son a most important service by speaking to Mr. Griffith on his behalf. If he will give him the trial I here speak of; — you will them find that I have not overrated either his talents or his industry and need I add that I shall be deeply grateful for your kind services?

Should any references be had to Mr. Buck his present superior you will find his report of my son's capabilities and assiduity fully to bear out and sustain anything that I have asserted on either head.

I will offer no apology for the trouble that I am now imposing on you because I am quite persuaded that you feel a pleasure in serving a friend and I trust that I may

assure myself that you give me credit for being equally anxious to reciprocate such service were it in my power. Hoping to hear from you very soon

To
J. Hampton Esq.
Coleraine.

I remain truly yours
THOMAS J. MULVANY.

YOU can now see my dearest William what I have done and can but judge whether I have acted wisely in making the offer that you should (if appointed) remain under Mr. Hampton at your present salary until he could report upon your perfect competency; my opinion is that such an offer on your own part will best demonstrate the desire you feel to put in an open and honourable way your claims to Mr. Griffith's good opinion to a fair and business-like test showing that you only ask for an opportunity (and that too at your present pay) to shew that you would deserve his patronage and encouragement.

If you agree with me on that point lose no time in consulting your friend Mr. Buck, get him to recommend you to Mr. Griffith on the very conditions which I have suggested to my friend Hampton, the moment you do write to Mr. Griffith and also to Mr. Hampton, as my son, stating to him your earnest wishes and repeating to him what I have communicated, the result I am persuaded will be successful and then, when anything has been done either by yourself or Mr. Buck let me know.

I spent yesterday at Bullock with Eliza she is thank God much better. — George has gone to the country with Clarke of Britain street for two days. Richard is but poorly. Mama and all the rest are well. God bless you my dearest William and that you may succeed is my wish

To
William T. Mulvany Esq.
Castlebar
Mayo.
Ordinance Survey.
Boundary Department.

THOMAS J. MULVANY.

Royal Hibernian Academy,
14 July 1830.

My dearest William,

ABOUT ten days ago I met Sir Francis Blosse in Suffolk Street he received me with great warmth and seemed very happy to see me, he told me that he had met you in Mayo and stated to me how happy he was to find you just the sort of person that he had expected you would turn out, he regretted exceedingly that he was not personally acquainted with Mr. Griffith but he added that Lord Plunket's family were and therefore conceived that a letter from himself might be attended to from his connection with Lord Plunket — he in short told me that he would write such a letter, before he should leave town, and he accordingly did so and brought it to the Academy. I was out at the moment but he very politely left his card and his compliments with the letter for me.

Dear Sir,

I am very sorry that I have not the pleasure of being acquainted with Mr. Griffith that I might take the liberty of introducing your son to his notice. — When he was at school about seven years ago, I had a good opportunity of knowing and appreciating his talents, and very lately when I met him on the business of the Government Survey in Mayo I was much gratified to find that. — You'll laugh at me for having gone so far in the transcription of the letter which I meant to inclose, but the mistake grew out of this; Sir Francis inclosed his letter to me in an envelope in which he wrote as follows:

Dear Sir,

I inclose a letter to you respecting your son which perhaps may answer better than a direct application this you can shew and I shall be happy to follow it up in any manner you suggest.

5th July 1830.

Yours very truly

FRANCIS LYNCH BLOSSE.

To

T. J. Mulvany Esq.

&c. &c. &c

—————o—————

I have deemed it better to send you but the copy of this envelope, as to send itself would invoke a third postage.

The moment I got these letters I determined to send them off to you, but I got one from my worthy friend Hampton stating to me that none would now be appointed to the valuation survey but those already placed on it, and also informing me that Mr. Griffith was coming up to town in a few days. This altered my intention for I then resolved to wait on Mr. Griffith with Sir Francis's letter, whilst I was waiting for his arrival I had a visit from my old friend Mr. Kelly who is one of the principle valuers. He was on his way from Coleraine to Tipperary, I had a long conversation with him, and his advice is for you to go on with patience, he said that you must succeed, he considers that your knowledge of botany is of the very highest advantage to you he advises you to cultivate that study for he assured me, that to know the indigenous grasses of Ireland and the peculiar nature of the soil is more than half the business of a valuator, add to this a knowledge of local agriculture and the thing is achieved — he is to be in Dublin in September on his way to Coleraine and he promised everything in his power to serve you.

On Saturday last I heard at Mr. Griffith's house that he was expected home in the evening I therefore determined to wait on him this morning. I did so and am but just returned from him, his reception of me was most truly gratifying and his manner of speaking of you was more than gratifying. I handed him Sir Francis's letter and when he read it he thus addressed me: "I assure you Mr. Mulvany this does not surprise me, for your son stands very high with Mr. Buck and stood very high also with the gentleman with whom he was previously — he but waits for an opportunity to be raised, but if you will put yourself in my situation you will soon find that you cannot always at the moment that you discover merit immediately reward it, things must take their time but be assured of it that your son stands very high indeed and shall not be forgotten. I told him how delighted I was to hear him speak in such terms of you and was then about to take my leave of him, but he pressed me

to walk through his house with him which I did, it is a beautiful chaste piece of architecture, in the very best taste, in some of the rooms I saw some family pictures and when he found that I had been so intimately acquainted with his father and all his family he seemed quite renewed in his very courteous and kind civilities — indeed the impression on my mind is that the interview will do you no harm.

I could not procure a frank but I know that you will pay the double postage with pleasure when you have read Sir Francis's letter, to whom I would wish you to write a strong letter of thanks, he is now in Mayo, I have only time to say God bless you.

THOMAS J. MULVANY.

To

William T. Mulvany Esq.

&c. &c. &c.

Castlebar. Mayo.

Government Survey.

Boundary Dep.

—————o—————

Royal Hibernian Academy,
27 December 1831.

My dearest William,

IN your letter of yesterday you appear to me to have taken a most judicious and practical view of the rail-road speculation. I have always been of opinion that the length of time which you have spent under Mr. Griffith could be of service to you, only by your continuing to remain with him until he can have it in his power to promote you, the claims with which length of service seldom fails to furnish a man, cannot have been available to him, who has not awaited the occurrence of these events that are in themselves opportunities for his promotion — so far you will see that I am quite with you in this business.

With reference to the latter part of your letter it demands my most serious consideration not only because it links itself with that which may either contribute to, or mar your happiness and station in this world, but may by possibility, from its necessary influence on your character and habits materially promote or impede your hopes hereafter. But let

me before I offer any advice, candidly avow that your conduct on this occasion has been everything that a parent could have desired, it has been towards Alicia, so far as I am aware of, ingenuous, unreserved and honourable and towards your mother and me it has been confiding, affectionate and dutiful. I should therefore be undeserving such marks of love from my son, if I did not feel as I do and feeling so, I should be wholly without an excuse, were I to withhold this avowal, but William, my darling fellow, I dread the depressing consequences which in all probability awaits the step that you are now about to take, to enter into so abiding an engagement as marriage, with so little of the world's gear as you possess is almost to combat poverty in her strong-hold and that too with the least possible chance of success. It is true that I myself married early and with an income not more than you now have but it was equally true that in less time than four months after my marriage my professional engagements so increased that I found myself in the receipt of six guineas a week, now that was an event, to any thing like which you cannot even by possibility look forward, you cannot even calculate on a small and speedy increase of pay, and how with your present income you can hope to meet the increased demands which marriage must of necessity produce is to me perfectly enigmatical, besides it will leave you wholly dependant on Mr. Griffith for employment and he must know that too, I will not say that he is a man who would take an ungenerous advantage of you on that account, nor will I hesitate to admit that he possibly might feel even a stronger desire to serve you then, than he may now feel, but still it is a fearful experiment to make. — I am well aware of the many arguments that may be urged and justly urged too, in favour of early marriages. I know that it is the source of many virtues, the cause of genuine happiness, some of the most delicious moments I have ever enjoyed were passed in the little village of Sandymount, prior and subsequent to your birth, when I have joyously trudged home after the business of the week, with tea in one pocket, some sugar in the other, perhaps some little fowl wrapped up in paper

and I bounding across the sands, in an ardent anticipation of my little fireside comforts and the embraces of her, who was then my pride, and has been to me ever since my solace and my consolation, such were the moments that passed almost in uninterrupted succession, I know that they are beyond all price, but other scenes will come, increase of family, increased expenses and perhaps decreased resources make a sad havoc in the domestic circle, sacrifices must then be made, and to be made with effect must be cheerfully submitted to, poverty is a severe ordeal through which affection must pass; a bad and indifferently furnished apartment, an inability to meet every day engagements leaves a man open to many insults and to almost every species of misconception, believe me that that man's principles are seldom respected whose inability to be punctual may have deprived him of confidence, at such a moment, even a man's friends will not understand him and the world cannot, then it is that endurance becomes inevitable, that in the moment of trial and I have had such trials on that score, as I would not consign my enemy to, much less my child, at such a crisis there is often a frightful disarrangement of the temper, a change that often most deeply wounds those, whom one most ardently loves, this sometimes cuts off sympathy when it is most needed and leaves the being agonised at home, and misunderstood abroad, this is no over-charged picture—Many, very many of the purest minds have been driven to distraction, not so much by the privations which poverty inflicts, as by the taunting insults to which a misconception of a man's real character necessarily exposes him, I know of no suffering so intense, no state of feeling so agonising as that of being supposed to want principle when the heart beats with high purpose;—you will tell me perhaps that this very frightful state of things is not necessarily to be the consequence of all early marriages, even when entered into with the most scanty means, heaven forbid that it were, nor need it therefore be the result of what you are about to do, but there are still the grounds for fear. That it may not occur to you is my ardent prayer.



THOMAS MOORE
the Poet, from a portrait in oils by
GEORGE F. MULVANY R.H.A.

There is one subject upon which you will have perceived that I have not touched and that is the difference of religion between you and Alicia, upon that point you must judge for yourself, all I will add is this—that as it is a subject linking itself with Eternity so should it be kept free from all earthly speculations, — you have now my opinions and with them, the only thing which I can give you, my blessing.

To

William T. Mulvany Esq.
Boundary Surveyor
Malam.
Oughterard.

Ever your affectionate father

THOMAS J. MULVANY.

— o —

1832.

My dearest William,

I found a letter here from George for me, it came after we left Wednesday last. It brought no inclosure to me solely because George has found it so difficult a matter to get payment for such of his proof impressions of Moore as he has yet delivered. Had you been at home I should therefore have had to borrow L 2.10.0. from you and as you were absent I got that sum in your name from Mr. Long — the first money I receive I shall remit it to you.

And my dearest William let me simply say that your more than affectionate reception of me, has sunk deeply into my heart and as to my dearest Alicia her attention I never shall forget. In some future time I may possibly tell you why your reception of me has been at present so grateful to my feelings.

Ever my darling William

your affectionate father

To

William T. Mulvany Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

THOMAS J. MULVANY.

— o —

Academy House, Abbey Street,
2 March 1833.

My dear William,

THERE is not any movement which I could make, which could add so much to my happiness as to go to you and my dearest Alicia, whether I regard my companion on that trip or those to whom I would be going, but just at this period of the year the thing would be on my part most unwise and injudicious, I am determined however should I be spared, to go for Mamma and to stay with you then one month.

I am quite sanguine in my expectation of the good which will have resulted to Mamma from her visit to you, the country will have done a great deal, — the change of scene will have done a great deal, and those with whom she will be and the consciousness that she will be where she ought to be on such an occasion, will do all the rest, my wish is that she should go off with the least possible delay, say Monday week.

George must accompany her for she could not be permitted to travel alone, therefore if there are in Galway, or on the road from thence to Oughterard any girls, sufficiently alive to the charms of an Apollo-like man, whiskers of the most improved cut, and an air, altogether à la Londres tell them to watch each post-chaise as it journeys along that line, and should they espy a lady-like elderly gentlewoman in a black silk cloak, black satin bonnet &c. sitting in deep conversation with an interesting young man, that he is the man of whom I write, tell them to look but not to hope for he is not to be had!!! I sent you two papers this week the "Weekly Freeman" with a double supplement and the "Morning Register" of Monday last, I will send you to-day the "Evening Packet" of this day and the "Weekly Freeman" of this week, and I shall send you regularly the "Weekly Freeman". If I get the "Comet" of this day I will also send it — so much for news.

There is a passage in your letter to which if I were not to reply you might possibly suppose that I had not

given sufficient attention, It is when you regret some irritability of temper, when arguing with me, — My dear fellow you need not have mentioned that for I give you my honour I was not displeased on that account, however I might have regretted it, as it might effect you with the world generally, but it brought no notion to my mind of any want of either duty or affection, But what did really hurt me was your unaccountable silence since you left town, however that you have amply explained away, if any child of yours should under similar circumstances act in the same way and offer the same explanation, you would not have any other feelings on the occasion than sincere regret that you had done them injustice by your misconstruction of their silence and should you have as little reason to find fault with your children as I have had, you never can be sufficiently thankful to Him, whose protecting Grace will have so guided them.

Give my love to Alicia and believe me my dear William,
your affectionate father
THOMAS J. MULVANY.

P. S. George bids me to say that as he can only stop one day with you, he wishes to leave town on Saturday next (the 9th) as by that arrangement he will have lost one day less, Sunday being no working day.

To

William T. Mulvany Esq.
Boundary Survey.
Oughterard.

Royal Hibernian Academy,
12. April 1833.

My dear William,

MY favourite Burns who said things better than most other men has stated it to be his conviction that one suffers more trouble from the fact of not having written to their friend than the writing of a dozen letters could impose.

This is my case when in France I was unwilling to put you to the enormous postage which a french letter to Dunmore would be, I often hoped to have had some opportunity of sending you a letter by some friend but could find no such means of communication and when I returned, the state of your health added to some annoyances that just then occurred little disposed me for writing.

I must reserve everything like a description of France generally and Paris particularly until we meet, suffice it to say it is the country for art, the city of intelligence the place where the mind is fed and improved more cheaply and more effectually too than in any city in Europe, you may occasionally hear a vast account of the vices of the French Capital, they may be there and I have no doubt they exist there in a most pernicious maturity, but this I can assure you that they come not in your way they cross you not in your path and the man who encounters them must have gone in search of them. — It is beyond any degree of comparison the most orderly, decent, well regulated city in Europe, the public buildings, the bridges, the roads, everything connected with architecture, civil engineering, sculpture, and the arts generally are all there in perfection. It is the home of study, the residence of science and the very seat of elegant yet simple enjoyments, yet it is not the city in which I should wish to die, — England is and Ireland might be the home of the heart. The fire-side resides not in France. By the bye the hearth round which so much enjoyment is had here, is as you perceive, a word, five-sixths of which is the "heart". It has always struck me as a most appropriate term. — A happy though perhaps accidental combination of letters.

George's improvement at the Louvre was astonishing; since his return he has painted some pictures immeasurably beyond any of his former work, particularly his "Spanish girl" and a small whole length of a gentleman, they must establish his character and that highly too. His progress in the french language is likewise surprising, he not only converses fluently but he writes the purest french with



His brother JOHN S. MULVANY R. H. A.
also a well-known Artist from a portrait by
GEORGE F. MULVANY.

perfect ease. Mamma is very unhappy just now in consequence of poor aunt Catherine being obliged to come up from Waterford to consult the physicans. Her case is dangerous, something internal.

Give my affectionate love to Alicia. I need not tell her how much I regretted her long suffering and illness, those who endure with her silence and patience are always sure of more than the mere sympathy of their friends. They claim their respect, the best basis on which permanent affections can rest. I hope to see her and the children this summer if it were but for one week, your uncle is very, very poorly and not likely in my judgement to be better. He is very feeble and quite unable to paint or draw (his brother John Mulvany).

John is drawing nigh to the period of being his own master. In September he will have completed his time with Butler. Thomas is going on famously at school. He is growing a nice boy, Eliza has not been quite well but she is now better, Mary is also quite well, with the exception of an occasional toothache -- that most uncommiserated annoyance.

Although this letter accompanies the things which you wrote to Mamma to purchase for you yet I cannot so much as enumerate the articles much less state their respective qualities or prices but I take for granted that a faithful account of the stewardship will be rendered unto you, -- that the commission was taken up in no light spirit I can answer for, if the grave countenances, the solemn debates and the prudent hesitations of the three ladies be considered; the recent upset of the ministers I fancy was not productive of more earnest inquiries or more conscientious investigation than the colour of the cloak, the form of the bonnet or the application of the funds, so far the affair has had its due proportion of steady deliberation!

Farewell my dear William ever your affectionate father

To
William T. Mulvany Esq.
8c. &c. 8c.
Dunmore.
Fedane House.

THOMAS J. MULVANY.

Royal Hibernian Academy,

1. August 1833.

My dear William,

I wrote to Mr. Papworth who was to have left this on Tuesday last, but as he has not as yet departed but goes off this evening I now replace that letter with this. — There is no such thing as getting a good second-hand set of jaunting-car harness at least one might be month's looking for it, the only set at present in Dublin (and Sir George Whiteford and I have tried all Dublin), is at a saddler's in South Ann Street the price of it is L 3.15 — and the greatest objection to it is that it is all covered over with brass finery — I have therefore settled the point thus, — I have bespoken from Fletcher of Bolton Street the person who is making the Mayoralty harness, a new set of his best plain harness which he will make in the most superior manner, these my dearest William you will receive as the gift of your father, — I hope also to get you a saddle.

Dublin has been in the state of the greatest excitement for the last 3 days in consequence of the murder of Mr. Sneyel the wine merchant. He was shot on Monday in Westmoreland Street by a mad-man of the name of Mason son of a person of that name formerly an iron-monger in Dawson Street, poor Mr. Sneyel lived in anguish until a quarter before 4 o'clk. yesterday morning when he expired.

Tell Mamma that Eliza and Richard are both improving and that they are all and Master George most of all, anxious for her return, she must therefore prepare to come home with Tom, give my love to Mamma, Alicia, Tom and my granddaughter and believe me my dear William

your affectionate father

THOMAS J. MULVANY.

I highly approve of your having purchased the horse, I hope to get a drive on him before Xmas.

To

William T. Mulvany Esq.

Boundary Survey
Lupin Lodge,
Dunmore.

Royal Hibernian Academy,
3 August 1833.

My dear William,

I wrote to you on Thursday last by Mr. Papworth who promised to put the letter in the Tuam post office, I hope you have got it.

I told you that I had ordered a new set of harness quite plain, but of the very best materials and workmanship – It is to be finished on Thursday or Friday next, I have got a very excellent saddle, one that will last you with care for years, when the harness is finished, I shall get the saddler to pack it and the saddle in the most careful manner and let you know, where and how you are to get them, I sent you two papers this morning the "Evening Packet" of Thursday last and the "Weekly Freeman" of this day week, into which I put my friend the Reverend Mr. Cahil's Essay on the "Trisection of the Ark", did you get it? Thomas's vacation ends this day, I can't give him more than another week and when I am sending for him, I believe I must summon Mamma home, the girls are quite unhappy at her absence.

Why has not Thomas written to me? tell him I thought I should have had many letters from him, How goes on his coursing? is he getting fat? you will have perceived by the "Weekly Freeman" of this day that poor Mr. Boyle is dead, this is a loss of twenty five guineas to George. He ordered a picture from him, which of course now need not be painted. This, not to pun on it, is a dead loss to George, he has died worth a great sum of money and has left innumerable legacies which shows him to have been a kindhearted man. Give my love to Mamma, tell her that my next letter shall be to her which will account for me having said so little of her in this, Before I shall have sent off the things I shall have made every inquiry as to the cheapest mode of transmitting them, if you should quit Lupin Lodge before you hear from me, be sure you

inform me of the change and the new form of your then address.

Ever your affectionate father THOMAS J. MULVANY.

To

William T. Mulvany Esq.

Lupin Lodge
Drunmore,
Co. Galway.

Royal Hibernian Academy,
17. August 1833.

My dear William,

MY friend Mr. Papworth has this moment stepped in and seeing me on my way off to the canal, with the harness &c., he most kindly insisted on forwarding it by a carrier, whom he had employed to carry a load to St. George of Headfort therefore your parcel goes free to you, however I think you'll give the man half a crown. The name of the carrier is Bird, he engages to deliver the goods at Headfort, within 7 days therefore as he leaves town this evening you may judge when he will be passing through Moylough for that is to be his route.

The harness is very handsome and of the very best workmanship, I am sure you'll like it. The saddle is not the one which I selected at first, this is new and made by Fletcher. It cost a little more than the other, but it is good value for the difference. — Richard will send the bridle.

In the parcel you'll find a box of paste for the brasses, of the harness and a pot of varnish. Both have their directions printed on them but I have been most particularly requested by Mr. Fletcher to say that both the preservation and good appearance of the harness will depend on your servant carefully doing as follows; let them be kept perfectly clean and oil'd with neat's foot oil, that is to say for every two oilings let them be dressed up once with ivory-black and oil, which must be laid on thinly and most carefully rubbed off with cloth or flannel, — If they get too much oil, the stitching will have been injured and if too much of the oil and lampblack, they will be liable to

crack — therefore two oilings are deemed generally a good proportion and one of the blackening. — I am leaving directions about them for I go off with the Lord Mayor elect tomorrow morning at 8 o'clk. in the Limerick coach to the Queen's County — where I shall stop one week he cannot stay longer. I shall write to Mamma from thence give my love to all, ever my dear William your affectionate father

THOMAS J. MULVANY.

Just as I had written this letter Mrs. Crawford of Stillorgan Park, has sent her coach-man with eight large pots of raspberry, currant (both black, red and white). Damson and apricot jellies and jams — for Eliza — This will gratify darling Mamma. — A few days ago I got an excellent cream cheese from Sligo.

To

William T. Mulvany Esq.

Fedane House

Moylough. Co. Galway.

Boundary Survey.

nr. Castleblakeney.

—————o—————

Stanmore Park, Ennis,
18th October 1833.

My dear William, .

WHEN I tell you, that I never felt more anxiously, the desire to see those from whom I have been so long separated, you will naturally believe me and if I had not almost promised Eliza when leaving town, that I would go directly to Ennis, I most assuredly would have meandered towards Fedane House. My reception here has been everything which I could wish, every attention which courtesy could suggest or which an educated hospitality could make still more agreeable, has been and continues to be done, I have more invitations than I could accept, — (If I were to accept any), from this to Christmas next.

When in Galway Mr. Ormsby told me that you were about to leave Fedane House for Castle Blakeney I think. I cannot yet say what day I shall leave this but if you are to

remove within the next week, I should wish you to write to me, say where you shall have gone to and telling me, how I should best proceed from hence, my present intention, is to return to Galway as I am anxious to see Ellard and then to proceed by Tuam or by whatever other road most directly leading towards your then residence.

Is Mamma anxious to see me? Is Master Tom also? Georgina I am sure is! give my love to Mamma, Alicia, Tom and Georgina.

A gentleman who has a very fine dog talks of having his portrait painted but as long as it is but talk, I can't calculate on the result, should it end in a picture, I shall of course be longer here.

Farewell my dear William, ever your affectionate father

THOMAS J. MULVANY.

I have a letter from Eliza and I have written to Mary. I sent you from hence "The Evening Packet" of yesterday week and I also send you another "Packet" by this post.

To

William T. Mulvany Esq.

8c. 8c. 8c.

Fedane House.

Boundary Survey.

Dunmore. Co. Galway.

—————o—————

Royal Hibernian Academy,

24 Nov. 1833.

My dear William,

YOU and Alicia I am sure must deem it passing strange that you have not heard from me ere this but when I tell you that ever since my return to town, I have been confined by the state of my leg and have only been out within the last two days and that but to the Mansion House you will see why I have not written I have also been anxious to get a Frank and have only now obtained one, which as it is for Sunday will not have reached Dunmore sooner than Tuesday.

When we reached Ballinasloe we were most agreeably surprised to find Mr. Blake sitting in the Boat, he had been



HELEN O'CALLAGHAN
from a painting by GEORGE F. MULVANY.

brought so far by the Tuam day-coach but could not be taken further not having been booked at Tuam. He was therefore constrained to take the boat. We had a very pleasant company and spent the night as agreeably as one could hope to spend it travelling.

I requested Mr. Blake would favour me with a visit which he did on the Saturday following and I induced him to dine with us on Monday last. He is a great favourite with all here. He is certainly a most gentleman-like man, and his singing is excessively admired. He appears to regret having left the country and likes to talk often and long of his friends at Park. He is a very great favourite of mine — All your Mamma's friends think her wonderfully improved by her sojourn in the country. Eliza is anxious to write a few lines to Alicia therefore I shall leave her a portion of this paper she will be more circumstantial and therefore more satisfactory than I can be now for the truth is that that I am not in the best spirits just now. I shall make amends to my dearest Alicia in my next letter which shall be to her. When you see your friends at Park, and at Lake-view present both Mamma and me, most cordially. Tell Mr. Synge, when you meet him that I shall not forget my promise of the tinted sketch of his glebe, also give my compliments to Mr. O'Roark, and to Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong should you meet them. I feel very sensibly, their polite and kind attentions. When you write to my kind friend Mr. Buck pray tell him how much I feel his more-than kindness. Give my love to Alicia to the young lady with the hole in one cheek, and believe me ever my dear William

your affectionate father

THOMAS J. MULVANY.

P. S. You recollect Caleb O'Callaghan, Eliza had a heart rending letter from Helen yesterday announcing his death, That inestimable family have had according to earthly calculations their full share of afflictions.

Mr. Buck's Office Galway,
30th Nov. 1833.

My dear William,

I have called to pay my respects to Mr. Buck, and to ascertain from him as I could not from you, not having heard from you, whether you are still at Fedane House and asking his advice as to the best line of approach thither. He will not allow me to leave Galway without spending one day with him, and being previously engaged for this day to Mr. Ellard of Renmore I am to stop to dine with Mr. Buck tomorrow. — Besides as a means of kindly inducing me to stop with him he tells me, that tomorrow will be market day at Dunmore, and that therefore you are quite sure to send there for letters, consequently that you will get this, in the evening, yielding therefore to the hope, that you will have sent to Dunmore I have consented to stop here for tomorrow and to write to-day. I shall please God, leave Galway on Friday morning in the six o'clk. coach for Tuam, and if you could send your car there for me and Tom on it, I shall get to Fedane House in time for dinner, — I say dinner for I have purchased a very fine turbot and a John-Dory to bring with me which Doctor Ormsby has kindly undertaken to have carefully packed up for me.

How is darling Mamma? and my dearest Alicia, as I don't care for Tom I need not inquire about him!!! give my love to all, until I shall be with you all.

By the bye your kind friend Mr. Buck's attentions to me are more than gratifying to me as I feel that I am indebted for them, to the respect and esteem in which he holds you. It is one of the few cases in which dependance is desirable when the parent stands indebted to his children for an accession of personal respect, that you may experience the same feeling in your turn, is my dearest William the earnest wish of

your affectionate father

THOMAS J. MULVANY.

To

William T. Mulvany Esq.
Fedane House,
Dunmore. Co. Galway.
Boundary Survey

Royal Hibernian Academy,
19th April 1836.

My dear William,

I avail myself of the approaching departure of Mamma and Mary to send you some pamphlets on railways which I got from my friend James Perry, that on the intended Western or Southern trunk has been written by a Mr. Mc. Mullen an exceedingly clever, well informed man. I have been promised others from my friend Leahy of Merrion Square who is agent to the talked of-black-sod railway. If I shall not soon get them I shall write to Sir William Brabazon who being member for Mayo and consequently attending his parliamentary duties, is now in London and could procure such documents, George could call upon him for them.

I have also information to give you, which I should imagine may be of infinite advantage to you and to my excellent friend Buck. It is not the passing gossip of the day. It is the authorised direction of the Government shewing two very important facts, namely their intentions and the conditions upon which those intentions are to become practical.

The case is this a friend of mine Mr. Gregory, a man distinguished, eminently so, as a mathematician has been employed by Mr. Spring Rice to make a most intricate and deep calculation, touching the subjects of a great arterial railway trunk running in either a southern, western or north western direction — in order that this shall have been done most efficiently he has been furnished with every document, whether reports or others which the Government possessed affecting the subject. The reading of these papers has been the laborious work of nine weeks. For the successful execution of this most arduous task Mr. Gregory is to be largely remunerated, the instructions by which he is to be regulated are as follows:

“The Government is most willing to assist in the promotion of a great trunk railway extending from Dublin to the Atlantic, in either of the lines already stated but they will not assist in more than one such railway and the con-

ditions upon which they will, at all give assistance, — form the subject of Mr. Gregory's calculation — He is in the first instance to lay down the three lines of railway.

He is then to ascertain the number and present importance of the several towns lying on either sides of those lines — he is next to imagine the justly probable increase of those towns for the next ten years — as regards their population, trade, manufactures, commerce &c. having done all this he is then ordered to shew which of those three lines — if executed would at the end of ten years have given the most beneficial and general accommodations to the country at large, with the fewest number of miles of lateral or branch railways."

In other words the Government being willing to assist — in liberal outlay on the great trunk are desirous to know which line would confer the greatest benefit on the country, yet imposing the least outlay upon those whose present or growing prosperity would make them desirous of communicating with it.

This information appears to me, to be of the very first importance to those who are, or who may be employed in laying out lines for projected railways. It shews them what is sought for by the Government and it also shows them and clearly too the principles upon which the utility of such constructions in a national point of view rests.

As Mr. Spring Rice may possibly intend to use as an argument in the Senate, the result of Mr. Gregory's investigations it may therefore be prudent not to mention names. I mean to any person, except Mr. Buck.

Mr. Gregory stands very high I believe in Mr. Griffith's estimation, as an able mathematician, he is in great demand now, preparing young men for engineering -- I am going to place Tom under him for some months, he and I had a long conversation on Sunday last upon the subject of engineering and it is his firm conviction that out of every thirty young men now preparing themselves for the profession, not two of them can ever become Engineers in the true and scientific sense of the term. -- As he very justly

observes "It is not a little drawing and a little mathematics and a little arithmetic that will make an engineer — he must have each and all of these in an eminent degree and superadded to them he must possess, practically possess, stores of varied knowledge which nothing but deep, profound study can make him master of — The Engineer properly so called is therefore not likely to be rivalled from the nursery, he must rise because so very few can compete with him in practical knowledge — Tom is determined to be indeed an engineer which I know you'll be glad to hear — Mamma and Mary will tell you all that I could tell you, therefore I'll stop, give my best love to Alicia and kiss your daughters in my name. I shall soon write to you again.

Farewell my dearest William ever yours

To

William T. Mulvany Esq.
Galway.

affectionately

THOMAS J. MULVANY.

Killarney, 23. August 1836.

My dearest William,

YOURS of the 20th I got this morning you are of course by this time returned to Killaloe. Tom and I have been perfectly delighted with the lakes and everything here, this has been the only rainy day we have as yet had. We have seen the lakes, have ascended Mangerton, have been through the Gap of Dunlo and have visited Lord Headly's beautiful seat, at Aghaghada from which the best view of the lower Lake and Magillicuddy's Reeks are to be had. I have made sketches of the Lower Lake from Ross Island, The Devil's Punch-Bowl on the top of Mangerton — The Gap of Dunlo at it's entrance and at its upper end, — and a sweet view of Glenna Mountain from Ross Island.

Yesterday we hired two ponnies and a guide and set off at 7 o'clk, in the morning to go to the Gap of Dunlo,

when done sketching there, we ascended the top of the Glen and pursued our way on, until we arrived at the cottage of the late Lord Branden which is at the head of the upper Lake, we then moved on until we reached Mr. Hyde's Cottage and from that through a very fine oak wood belonging to Lord Kenmare which brought us to the new line of road leading to Killarney, at which we arrived at 7 o'clk. in the evening. The scenery is such as baffles all description, It is perfection and in the course of the ride you have every one of the various classes of scenery, mountain, lake, river, wood, glen, valley, — the sublime, the picturesque, the beautiful. Having told you that we had horses you very naturally infer that we rode, we were on their backs no doubt the greater part of the way but defend me from such riding! — Their reluctance to go at all, their incapability of going rightly — and above all, their mode of going, left both Tom and me, precisely in the state of mind which the Irishmen is said to have been in after having been dragged in a bottomless sedan chair for half an hour and who when paying the chairman said: "Gentleman I'll pay you — because I promised to do so, but as for the jaunt may I be damned but I'd rather walk double the distance."

We have not as yet been on the lake in a boat which I am sure I shall find very pleasing and I fear very expensive, every thing here is expensive. — We are living as cheaply as we can yet I find it very expensive. I pay a pound a week for our lodgings, a sleeping room and a sitting room the people are exceedingly obliging and kind, if we had gone to the Hotels we should have found the charges very heavy indeed.

Tom seems perfectly happy, he sketches, gathers minerals and studies the character of the people with deep interest. — We had an exceedingly intelligent man with us yesterday, as a guide, he is not professionally nor habitually a guide, I met him on the road the other day, — I had him to dine with me, he is a poor industrious farmer, a man of few words but of excellent feelings, he tells Tom every thing

about the country he expresses himself with great strength and peculiar simplicity, he was yesterday describing to me a priest whom he had known and whom he thought the very best preacher in Irish he had ever heard, when describing his powers of eloquence he said: "I'll tell you what Sir, I never heard a man get so soon to the heart! and if there was but one tear in it out he'd have it!" — Now such are the ingots of thought, which the uneducated peasants often throw out, and which a dexterous bookmaker would beat out, so as to gild a volume with.

Farewell my dearest William,

ever your affectionate father

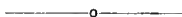
To

William T. Mulvaney Esq.

&c. &c. &c.

Killaloe.

THOMAS J. MULVANY.



Killarney, 27. August 1836.

My dearest William,

I would feel delighted to be able to come to Tarbot to meet you, and to visit the scenery of the Lower Shannon which I have been so long wishing to see but as I have yet a great deal to do here and as I find notwithstanding the exercise of the greatest economy that this said Killarney is an exceedingly expensive place, I must therefore deprive myself of the pleasure which a trip to Tarbot would afford me.

I had a letter eve yesterday from Eliza, by which I heard, what my kind friend James Perry had been doing for you, — I went to him a short time before I left town and urged him to think of you in any of the arrangements that might be made, with reference to the Drogheda, or other railways about to be executed, I find just as I would have expected that he has not forgotten his promise.

When I made that application to him I was not aware that you were so soon likely to be employed as you now are. — and with such pay as you now have.

The decision to which you must come regarding the appointment which James Perry has promised and in the forming of which you wish to consult me, must of course be wholly determined by your own knowledge of the localities of the subject.

In the absence of all knowledge of those localities I would at the first blush of the business say that it might be desirable to consult both Mr. Buck and Mr. Griffith — and the gentleman of whom you spoke to me one of the Commissioners Capt. Jones I believe

The necessity or even propriety of such consultation will of course be consequent upon your wish to take what Perry has got or to retain that which you already have. — If I understand the matter it is this, that Mr. Vignols wishes to employ you at a yearly salary of L 150 with an express condition that that sum shall be considered the minimum, and that it shall increase in proportion to the proofs you shall give of capabilities and zeal.

Now you know how you stand with your present employers and I take it for granted that you can fairly predict how far the present pay of one guinea per diem may be calculated upon, whether permanently or otherwise? you will also take into consideration the nature and probable results of the two employments and you will decide accordingly.

With reference to Vignols I have always heard that he is a most generous liberal person to do business with, so much so that Tom Bergins told me, that most of his confidential assistants had from 3 to 5 hundred a year each and he added that he, Vignols had recommended to still more lucrative appointments some of those very persons that were then most useful to himself! — These are noble traits in any man's character. My own opinion is that the present circumstance affords you an excellent opportunity of serving yourself, first by shewing to those by whom you are at present employed that you have had an offer made to you worthy of your attention, secondly of eliciting from them, something in the way of arrangements more tangible as

regards the permanence of employment than perhaps you may as yet have been able to procure.

These, my dear William are the only opinions which occur to me now to offer. I wish I could come to you to Tarbot, if I could I would.

Ever my dearest William

your affectionate father

THOMAS J. MULVANY.

To

William T. Mulvany Esq.

Civil Engineer.

Tarbot Hotel

Tarbot.

—o—

Academy House, Dublin,
15. Dec. 1836.

My dear William,

YOU will be surprised but I hope agreeably so, when I tell you, that I am coming to spend the Christmas with you.

I leave town tomorrow, please God, by the 2 o'clk. boat and hope to arrive in Limerick on Saturday evening at whatever hour the Killaloe Flag boat shall get there.

In haste affectionately yours

THOMAS J. MULVANY.

—o—

Royal Hibernian Academy,
10 February 1837.

My dear Alicia,

OUT of sight, out of mind is a detestable charge to bring against one, particularly, if one feels the kindnesses which have been bestowed upon them, yet I cannot help feeling that by my silence since I left you, I have nearly justified the imputation.

When I came home I spent some days in the irksome task of getting again into harness, a term for again commencing to draw, After that drudgery was got over, I then

determined to sit down and to tell my affectionately attentive Alicia, how sensibly I appreciated all her kindnesses then came this influenza and then I was laid in my bed for ten days. I am now but recovering from its effects. I have a cough that would tease one more endowed with patience than I may be permitted to boast of, however, I hope it may not last or if it should that I may last still longer, — so much for illness.

Now for my trip to town, on the coach from Limerick — I sat by a very agreeable old gentleman, with whom I held converse for the greater part of the morning — when one o'clk. came, we both discovered that there was a perfect sympathy of stomach subsisting between us. I then recollected that Mick handed to me when the coach was going off a parcel which at the time I supposed to be a sandwich and which I carefully kept in my pocket avoiding to sit on it least I should grease my coat thereby. I offered to my companion share of my repast which he very unhesitatingly accepted. I then produced the repast, commenced uncovering it and having taken off as many envelopes, as the gravedigger in Hamlet had vests, judge of my amusement and of his disappointment on discovering neither meat, nor bread — but a watch and chain! — I explained and my good natured fellow-traveller laughed heartily. We dined at Monstirem and we drank your health.

Georgina is this moment sitting by my side looking at every word I am writing, she has herself written several letters to "little Alicia", John will tell you what an improved child "Georgy" is, she has got crimson shoes and a most dashing bonnet. How is my little darling Alicia? and how is my little likeness Mary? I wont ask you how your lord and Master is as I am just about to ask himself the question.

Farewell my dearest Alicia

ever affectionately yours

THOMAS J. MULVANY.

To
Mrs. W. T. Mulvany
5 Catherine Str.
Limerick.

—————o—————

My dearest William,

I frequently feel, how much I stand in need of the considerate allowance of my friends, as regards the seeming inattention to the necessary acknowledgements due to them for kindnesses, you must have been extending to me a very large portion of such consideration, since I left you, for your reception and continued attentions to me demanded an earlier acknowledgement, however my compensations to my own feelings have been that though I did not write to you I have always thought and continually spoken of you, therefore forgive me.

I send you the intended alteration of Killaloe bridge*) by which you will have perceived that I got rid of nine piers! which taken at the average of ten feet each, removes 90 feet of obstruction. — The arches you will perceive are not all of the same dimensions but that has arisen from the desire to avail myself of the piers already standing and the difference of size in some of the arches cannot disadvantageously affect even the symetrical effect of the whole, owing to its length which exceeds the angle of vision by which all could be viewed at one glance. The arch you will have perceived is a segment of a circle and the radiating point of the cast metal work I have kept at a considerable depression in order (whether truly or not) to keep the pressure of the arch as perpendicular as possible. — My intentions were that the pressure should be thus ending in each pier at the little a.. (Here follows the sketch.) Whether theory would be sustained by practice is the question. — The plan if intelligible will shew you how I would bind and connect the cast metal work — seeing me enter so seriously into the business you need not be surprised if you should hear of me offering myself for some great public work, — Perhaps this is with me but the commencement of some scientific foolery if so my security against the disgrace of defeat will be found in the

*) In the original letter a sketch is inclosed.

cautious resistance which the world always offers to mere pretenders, I may continue to build on paper at all events without disappointment to myself or disadvantage to the public.

My next attempt shall be a landing pier at Tarbot.

Farewell my dearest William, ever your affectionate father

THOMAS J. MULVANY.

Remember me to all my friends.

To

William T. Mulvany Esq.

&c. &c. &c.

5 Catherine Str.

Limerick.

— o —

Royal Hibernian Academy,
8 July 1838.

My dear William,

MR. White called here yesterday I fortunately was at home, and saw him he came for the purpose of telling you, that he had been requested by Mr. Gerrard on Thursday to accompany him over the weir and works now being executed, he did so, and the conviction on his mind is, that they are not keeping to your plans. — He told me that he had written to Sir Samuel Synge Hutchinson stating that fact and recommending him, (Sir Samuel) to send off for you — without delay — and he added, that he would throw up his sanction to Sir Samuel if the works were not in strict accordance with plans as agreed upon by you, Halpin and the other Engineer which he presumes will have removed the evil complained of. —

I gave him your address which he said he would instantly forward to Sir Samuel, with whom he conceives the expenses of your visit should be.

It is probable that as he expected to find you in town he may have so informed Sir Samuel, whose letter, if he wrote one might not find you — I therefore deemed it right to tell you of the business. He also told me, Mr. Gerrard had Halpin down there.

Give my love to Tom and tell him that I'll send him down the "Warder" tomorrow night as there is a critique in it, on the Exhibition, I'll also send him down the "Mail" in which there is a most abominable attack not only on the Academy, but also most of its members, and their works.

Ever my dear William

your affectionate father

To

THOMAS J. MULVANY.

William T. Mulvany Esq.

8c. 8c. 8c.

Carrick on Shannon

Royal Hibernian Academy,
24 July 1840.

My dear William,

ALICIA and the children are all perfectly well — I have not been at Dove House but twice the last three weeks, or month — my last visit there was to breakfast with my grandson on the anniversary of his birthday — I would have dined with him but his grandmamma would not stir from home, I dug some of the potatoes that morning to bring into town just to let your mother see them, they are as fine as any as I have ever seen.

I perceived on my previous visit that they had broken open the door entrance into the field and were cutting down the hay, the weather was not very favourable but Johnny has made up the hay with exceeding care and success, there is a good prospect of after-grass, — When you return I hope you'll be able to purchase a cow and a pig, both will be wanted and both can be fed, but the many demands which you have on you by law and otherwise will leave you little funds at your command for some time to come.

I am meditating a little tour of some three weeks or so in the direction of Sligo, Ballyshannon and Enniskillen and returning by Boyle. I must do something to put me in possession of popular scenery in the hope of selling something in London or elsewhere during the winter or next

spring something of the kind I must do, for my present professional prospects are certainly chillingly dispiriting — but I do not despair — although I have recently experienced some injustices and neglects that would break down a mind less susceptible of either than mine — Pierce Mahony has purchased three of my pictures. — “The Commodore”, “The French Post-Man” and “The Crossing the Brook” — for these three I am to get but L 45 — including Francs! He has not yet paid me, but all in good time — By the bye, painting with the high feelings necessary to sustain it and the low remuneration given for it renders the pursuit a trying one, particularly judged of as men too frequently are by the pecuniary results — I hope I may end my days with more ease of mind and less of injustice to my claims.

When do you expect to get home? Will the Parliament continue much longer to sit? — It was stated in the papers of last night that Lord Ebbington is about to resign the Lieutenantcy upon the alleged grounds of not wishing to hold himself bound to those responsibilities which the Repeal Agitation must in his apprehension involve, he wants to put it down by proclamation! this reminds me of Dean Swift's remedy to cut off a man's feet when he asks for shoes. — The true way to put it down is to act justly, — justice to Ireland is now so completely the pass-word of party that it becomes invidious to use it. — One however may truly say, justice has not been done to Ireland. So long as the Duke of Wellington (a man whom in other respects I honour) is permitted to thwart legislation with those antiquated prejudices which, like „Tam O'Shanter's" wife he hugs to keep warm — followed by Lyndhurst, — Peel, Westmeath, Shaw &c. and the whole of Irish complaints or rather Ireland's complaints are sneered at by such Parliamentary coxcombs as d'Israel with his elocutionary maudlings, so long will Mr. O'Connell or even a less efficient disturber, continue agitation — but shew the Irish that their just rights are protected by the Parliament of England and they will soon settle down to peaceful profitable industry — and then no repeal. You have of course heard of the death of Chief

Baron Woulfe — a great favourite of mine. I used to get many Franks from him when in Parliament. He is now to be succeeded by another favourite and intimate friend of mine the recent Attorney-General and he is to be succeeded by your friend Mr. Pigot — I spent the evening of Monday amongst some lawyers and they were all rejoicing at the Attorney General's promotion — as Lawyers they seemed to deem it a better Bar promotion than that of the Chief Baron's. I rejoice at Brady's elevation — He is an unassuming, excellent man — and if he lacks law knowledge, which I am sure he does not, he must have some charm for the Government purely personal for he has not had the leverage of Parliamentary services to raise him. . . .

Ever my dear William,

your affectionate father

THOMAS J. MULVANY.

P. S. Just as I had sealed this letter my friend Cumney stepped in to beg of me, when writing to you to ask the following favour that you would ask Gibbs the Print-seller 23 Great Newport Street, 4 doors from 1 Martins-Lane for the 9th number of the National Gallery which was forgotten to be sent with the rest to Garard 35 for Mr. Cumney — and that you would oblige him by putting it in your trunk to bring home.

P. S. 2nd. Your mother bids me to remind you of your not having even mentioned her in your letter!!!

To

William T. Mulvany Esq.

8c. 8c. 8c.

No. 2 Strand, Charing Cross.

London.

— o —

Royal Hibernian Academy,
4. August 1842.

My dear William,

ALTHOUGH I am as little disposed to rely upon, as be at all influenced by the fugitive reports, which assail the ear in railway trams, canal boats, or mail coaches as any

man, yet there are cases where from the seeming respectability of the parties these probable sources of information and the earnest manner in which the communication is made, one may very fairly imagine the thing spoken of as not very improbable. Of such was the conversation held by two very gentlemen-like persons in the train with me this morning and which hanging as some parts of it does with matters which I have elsewhere heard in something very like accordance, I am therefore tempted to tell you of it.

The subject of conversation between the two gentlemen was the Drainage Bill, upon the vast utility and importance of which they both fully agreed but the appointment of the Commissioner or Commissioners was the all important point upon which it was stated, with all the earnestness of conviction and with all the air of confidential authority that but one Commissioner would be appointed and that Capt. Larcom is the man!

This appointment it was said was not only arising from the peculiar fitness of Larcom to direct such matters, he having in truth prepared and matured the whole Bill!!! but also because his services on the great Survey coming nearly to a close, the Government feel it but right thus to provide for him.

The person who made this communication was a steady elderly man — not talking as men too often do in such places to give themselves an air of importance but quietly and in a low tone of voice conveyed and which I could scarcely have heard but that they sat opposite to each other the communicator sitting next to me.

Whether there be any thing like probability in all this, Heaven only knows, but I thought you might as well know it and the better, to know it whilst you are in London.

Love to Alicia and the children ever my dear William

To

William T. Mulvany Esq.

&c. &c. &c.

2 Strand, Charing-Cross.

London.

your affectionate father

THOMAS J. MULVANY.

—————o—————



Commissioner WILLIAM T. MULVANY
in his court-dress painted by his 4th daughter
ANNABELLA C. MULVANY.

My dear William,

RICHARD has been telling me of the Treasury Minute as regards your appointments and the decision of yearly salary as regards your general income. — At the first blush of the thing it does seem odd enough that an elevation of rank and an increased responsibility should be compensated by a decrease of salary — but on looking at it as a whole and keeping strictly in view the feelings of perfect approbation in which the appointment has eventuated it is a delicate subject to urge a bargain on. — They, your friends at the Treasury feel that six hundred a year is six hundred a year, apportion it as they may — and when we recollect that your friend Col. Jones as head Shannon Commissioner has no more it may have brought the apportioning of the salary with their lordships as a matter of official tact and should probably be taken by you in that generous spirit — lest too urgent a putting forth of your claims, might appear to them as exhibiting a want of confidence in their high appreciation of your services which it is quite clear has originated your appointment as Commissioner.

It might possibly be said that this delicacy on your part and confidence in their honour and justice is not the business mode of proceeding, that in short you should make your terms in time with their lordships. I meet that by at once saying; that your appointment is fortunately for you peculiarly protected from any broad, vague want of reference or precedence. In any reference that future events may yet render necessary for you, you can always fall back upon the official fact, that your salary on the Shannon was six hundred a year and it never could be contemplated by men who had a thorough conviction of your fitness for office, — that your six hundred a year now should be at any time perilled to the extent of two hundred a year by the possible discontinuance of the office of Inspector of Fisheries — besides there is in your appointment a signal mark of their approbation in retaining even though unremuneratively your aid and services on the Shannon Commission.

Ever my dear William,
To W. T. Mulvany Esq.
8c. 8c. 8c.
Dove House.

your affectionate father
THOMAS J. MULVANY.
Sunday morning.

—○—

To
W. T. Mulvany Esq.
&c. &c. &c.
Dove House.

your affectionate father
THOMAS J. MULVANY.
Sunday morning.

Dirker House,
3 Aug. 44.

My dear William,

MAMA says that it has been so long since we all sat together that she will not feel happy tomorrow, now that all the Shannon Bridge folk have returned if you Alicia and the family dont come to dine with us, our Sabbath hour is half past five, say you'll come, your

To affectionate father
W. T. Mulvany Esq.
8c. 8c. 8c.
Dove House.
THOMAS J. MULVANY.

affectionate father
THOMAS J. MULVANY.

N. B. T. J. Mulvany the writer of the foregoing letters died 27th of February 1845, of what would now be called appendicitis a three days illness. He had lived to see his son William at the head of his profession.

A TESTIMONY

to William T. Mulvany 53 years later from his own son Thomas Robert Mulvany Esqre. of Düsseldorf, Prussia, British Consul General for Westphalia and the Rhenish Provinces.

Dearest Alicia,

Düsseldorf, Pempelfort,
15. April 1897. Good Friday.

I am afraid this will be too late to reach you on Easter Sunday but you will take the will for the deed and know

both you and Nannie even supposing I did not write, that you have my best wishes for a happy Easter and happiness at all times in this world and for ever. — Wherever we may be, matterless what the distance in miles may be, there is that bond of brother's and sister's love (it would be more polite to say sister's and brother's love) between us which requires not strengthening by mere words, be they written or spoken — distance does not with us, (let us trust never will) make the heart grow colder. Still doubtless there are people who say — "Well those good people cannot be very fond of each other who live so far apart" — in this respect certainly appearances are against us, well it's no affair of their's so we can smile at them so long as we know they make a big mistake, it need not trouble us so long as we do know that our love, Spartan, as it may appear to others can stand the test of time and space, we are built that way and understand each other and require no exchange of words in parting, in life or in death, we understand each other, we three, in this sense and in our love for dear father and mother, not that I mean to say we were exactly perfect children, far from it, at least I was not, but their love and brave example and the knowledge that hardly a day passes when it has not been before our mind's eye as something never to be forgotten, is the bond of union I mean, their love was so strong that it required not demonstration, it required no explanation, it was always there, even when a severe and well deserved reprimand was given. Let us thank God it never was withdrawn from us. I do not know how you and Nannie feel but I have and believe you have too, dark moments, long ones of remorse and trouble, over which their love still carries me feeling as I do they never took it from us except in a passing moment under strong provocation.

Those who do not understand us might say, — might laugh and say, — well Tom was not exactly a model son, nor is he a model man, and he wants us to believe that his father and mother were divine beings, nothing of the sort, they were simply brave, strong, God loving Christians,

you and Nannie know what I mean and understand it, that is quite good enough for me, let us try if we can, no easy matter, to live up to the example they set us and let us not be too harsh in our opinions and judgements of our fellow creatures who have not had such examples to follow as we have, an example, if we do our level best, we cannot live up to their's. There are none so bad that they have not something good in them, not even the „dead fish floating down the stream” many a man who can preach a good sermon is not much better, if you knew but all, let us rather look into our own hearts and souls, or rather thoughts and try to encourage the doubting “the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak”. It is not by turning your back on the so called “dead fish”. — So long as there is life there is hope they are not quite so dead that you cannot bring them back to life, who knows what we would have been, (we are hardly saintly as it is!) if we had not been brought up in a Christian home. I know what Nannie means, but he is clever and has many good points and with his pen has done much for his country. They are travelling for his health, I told him very plainly at his own table before the whole family gathering what I thought of his views but mine was too much of the sledge hammer argument.

Good night, with best love to you both from

your affectionate brother

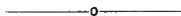
TOM.

To

Miss Alicia Mulvany

Villa del Sole

Cannes.





THOMAS ROBERT MULVANY
H. B. M. Consul General for Westphalia and the Rhenish
Provinces, only son of WILLIAM T. MULVANY Esqr.

FAREWELL*)

by IDA ROWE

FARE thee well; the waves are moaning by the dark and
unknown shore,
And thy bark has shipped its anchor to return, ah, nevermore!
For the steersman stern is waiting, but his face is turned away;
"Haste thee, haste!" he cries; "The East is brightening to
the dawn of Day!"

All night's fiends are raging round us. Hark! the storm-
wind shrieks on high;
Birds of evil plumage hover' neath the blackness of the sky.
Shades of dark and evil phantoms fill our souls with fear
and woe;
"Stay, o traveller, till the morning, for I cannot let thee go."

Vain our longing and our crying — vain the sorrow and
the pain,
"Steersman, tell me where thou goest, that we two may meet
again?"
But he heeded not our pleading, and the bark has pushed away
To the West, where night is darkest from the dawning of
the day.

Then, farewell; where'er thou goest flies my heart to speed
thee on;
Other planets thou may'st visit, other lives wilt thou have
known,
Ere the steersman brings his bark and sends his summons
unto me,
And I speed away to join thee Westward o'er the Unknown Sea.

*) A poem by an old friend which my brother found in "The English Illustrated" for June 1907 and which gave him great pleasure. The Editor.

CORRESPONDENCE
WITH
SIR THOMAS LAWRENCE
SHOWING THAT
PROFESSOR T. J. MULVANY
WAS ONE OF THE CHIEF MOVERS IN HAVING
THE ROYAL HIBERNIAN ACADEMY
IN DUBLIN ERECTED



Russell Square,
Jan. 11th 1821.

Dear Sir,

TOO long time has elapsed without my answering your letter, and much longer in my reply to letters which even you will consider of still higher importance: but you partly know my professional situation and its consequent engagements and occupation and will I know acquit me of intentional delay towards you and of disrespectful neglect of the interests and wishes of your friends.

My apology to them and to their distinguished Patron will have been rendered more difficult even than a just and safe opinion on the subject. The latter is still in favour of their views, limited as perhaps they will be by possibly a severer judgement than first governed them in fixing the number of members in the society, and guarded by the consideration that this last experiment had better not be made than not essentially secured in its prospect of success, by the soundest prudence and forbearance, if the foundations tho' not extended are firm, all will be safe. I fear that I shall offend a very natural hope and ambition in many gentlemen whose love of their profession and practice in it may have given them wishes and expectations which a necessary caution would disappoint, but my motive can be only that of the sincerest good will to the arts of Ireland and of general respect towards their Professors. My apology and compressed opinion will soon be sent to Mr. Grant — compressed because discussion is endless upon the general subject of the influence (hostile or favourable) of Academies, and because your friends have already the advantage of the enlightened opinions of Mr. Shee who generally touches the various parts of every subject, however careful of the strongest.

I thank you for your obliging attention in sending me the list of Artists and now proceed to answer your enquiry respecting the Pallet. My advice certainly is that you should not mix up tints upon it, blend them for your immediate purpose with the pencil. In my earlier practice I did the

former, but you have the very highest authority for the latter, that of Sir Joshua Reynolds whose pallet was very simple.

Remember on all occasions the certain obvious truths that light and colour should go together, — Shadow and the absence of it. Ninety nine times out of the hundred the preponderance of colour on the shadow side of your picture is falsehood and defect, and colour must likewise be placed not only on the side of the light, but its general stream direction. It is no answer to this that in the next fine picture of an Old Master you may find an exception to the rule. — In him believe it false; for in few of the Old Masters do you find this truth observed but in the highest of them in his best works you do. Raffaele was not only the Phenomenon but the Philosopher of his art and his judgement was even greater than his genius.

Adieu dear Sir, remember in palliation of my delay the number of my engagements, that my life has been both a public and entirely private one, that I have unfortunately no wife, and inconveniently no secretary and that long habits of solitude at home leave me in mature life too much without assistance. For the exactionous zealous artist it is all the better; but not for other business that at last becomes our duty.

Your very faithful Svt.

THOS. LAWRENCE.

To

Thomas J. Mulvany Esq.

18. Circular Road
North Strand
Dublin.

Russell Square,
April 18th 1822.

My dear Sir,

I have to thank you for your letter and am deeply impressed with the honour that is done me by this confidence of your professional friends, it could never be misplaced were my ability equal to my sincere wishes and exertion for the attainment of their rational and just views.

I have just had the pleasure to read the pamphlet and although my own name is mentioned in too flattering a manner (which is rather against me as an advocate) I will endeavour as early as possible to procure opportunity for attempting the important object of your letter, by personal effort if it is in my power, but if not, by the best (and probably more effectual) means that next present themselves.

I could have wished that there had not been so strong and pointed an allusion to the gentleman who has appeared as the principal opponent of the measures recently adopted for the advancement of the arts, because his conduct and opinions must already have been largely canvassed and such vindictive notice of them may possibly be unjust to his motives, and is therefore prejudicial to the cause, his talents and professional reputation must have gained him many and powerful friends, and silence would have been at once (as it appears to me) more dignified and wise, I speak however as a distant spectator of the contest and only with impression of the effect of the pamphlet here.

The zealous, honourable and enlightened friends who from patriotism and that love of art which every Professor feels who is so rapidly improving in it, has already been so active in your interests, has I am sure equal influence as ability to effect every measure that can be essential to them but if the station which his liberality with that of others has assigned me may seem to give to my name and efforts the means of additional security or hope, be assured they shall never be wanting to the furtherance of any measure (a just one it will always be) which you with your professional friends may entrust to my exertions.

I beg you to present to them my respects and to believe me ever

My dear Sir,

your very faithful Svt.

THOS. LAWRENCE.

To

T. J. Mulvany Esq.

Circular Road
North Strand
Dublin.

—o—

Dublin, April 30th 1824,
11 Fair-View Avenue.

Dear Sir,

THE repeated kindness you have honoured me with when I was in London, the great interest you took, in recommending the Charter of Incorporation for the artists of Ireland, and the ardent desire that you are so well known to feel for the general advancement of the Fine Arts in every place, all tend to assure me that I shall not be deemed by you as either obtrusive or troublesome, in thus taking leave to inform you of the transactions which took place yesterday relative to the ceremony of laying the first stone of a noble building now erecting for the Royal Hibernian Academy.

Under any circumstances such an event would very naturally excite (in every true lover of the arts) sentiments of the most gratifying kind, but when one stops to look back at the unpromising and indeed I may add, chilling aspect which the arts wore in this country up to the present period and then contrasts that, with the brightening prospect, which seems now to burst upon them, one is led, and perhaps justly led, to indulge in the hope that better things, and better days await both the art and its professors — feeling thus it were ingratitude not to turn to those by whose influence and through whose instrumentality that charter has been obtained and that station given to the arts, which has called forth the munificent act, that I am now about to mention — these Dear Sir, are my feelings, and I trust, will be taken as my apology for the very great liberty I am now taking.

The unreserved manner in which you did me the honour to speak to me upon the subject of Academies as connected with Ireland, assure me that it will afford you sincere pleasure to know that a member of our own Academy has both the public spirit and the means too, to expend several thousand pounds gratuitously in erecting a noble building for the arts of his country — such an act of liberality and



THOMAS J. MULVANY ESQRE.
Professor and Director of the Royal Hibernian Academy,
Dublin, Ireland, from a portrait by G. F. MULVANY

true patriotism would nobly distinguish the individual in any nation but it is peculiarly delightful to find this instance of munificence and right-mindedness in a country torn asunder as this is, by the most furious and unmeaning party feuds — at a time too when few, even of the informed classes of society have wholly escaped the infectious contagion of religious or political rancour. At such a time to find this excellent man expending thousands in order to give a permanent residence and every accomodation necessary for the cultivation of that art whose maturity is connected with the improvement of the human mind, — to witness such an act at such a time and under such circumstances calls forth every generous feeling of the heart.

This distinguished individual is Mr. Francis Johnston, the architect, a man who has been for the last 40 years at the head of his profession, he is architect to His Majesty's Board of Works in Ireland. Mr. J. is looked up to with profound respect for his great talents and beloved for his personal worth — the first stone was of course laid by himself attended by the Academy, the ceremony took place yesterday at one o'clock — the building has been in progress for several weeks upwards of an hundred men being employed in the various parts, but the laying the stone was reserved until the day on which His Majesty's birth was celebrated — in the evening the Academy had the honour of entertaining Mr. Johnston at dinner — such an evening I have never before spent — nor shall I ever forget it, the health of His Majesty George the 4th, the father of his people and the patron of the arts was received with a degree of enthusiasm which you may easily imagine Irish men capable of. — The Royal Academy, Sir T. Lawrence, President, and our talented and distinguished countryman Mr. Shee were each drank accompanied by those marks of high respect to which they were so justly entitled.

These dear Sir, are the outlines of yesterday's occurrence and I have now only to express my sincere hope, that the liberty, I have taken in thus breaking upon your valuable time will be pardoned in consideration of the feeling by

which I have been impelled. With sentiments of the highest respect

I have the honour to be Dear Sir,

your obedient and humble servant

To
Sir Thomas Lawrence
Esq. Esq. Esq.
London.

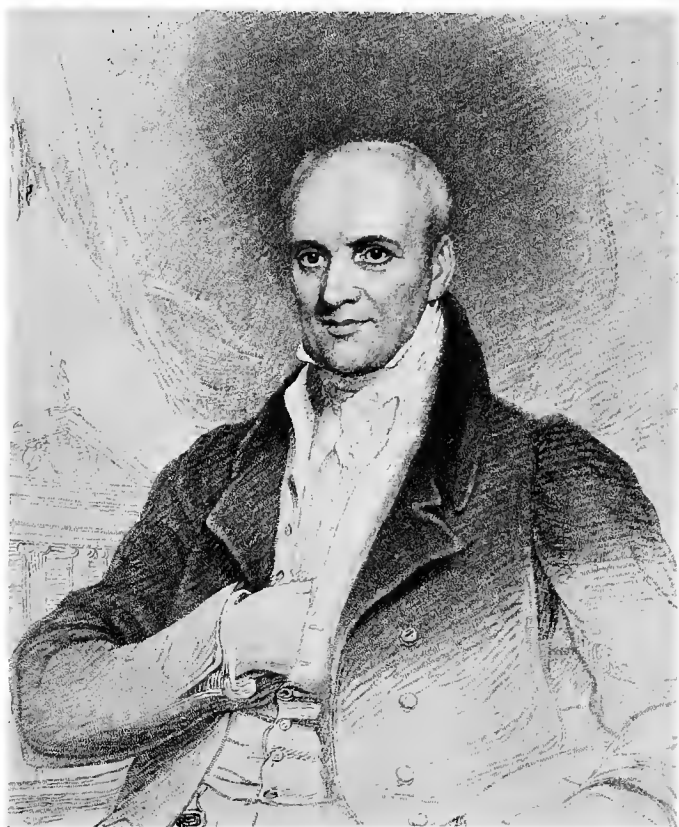
THOMAS J. MULVANY.

Russell Square,
June 18th 1826.

My dear Sir,

IF it has ever happened to you to defer proceeding on the picture that claims the highest interest, to a moment of the freest leisure, your mind will be nearer to that indulgent mood which may form excuse of the like nature for that silence, which has so ill repaid the liberality and kindness of my Irish friends, I am not so unworthy of those feelings as to descend to evasion on the subject of my neglect. I believe and I must therefore acknowledge the full extent of my crime which includes I fear official indecorum as well as seeming indifference to one of the most gratifying honours that I have ever had the good fortune to receive. May it be some excuse for me, that I have believed in a part of my personal character being fully known, viz; that I am incapable of undue estimate of my private or professional claims to the attention of my brother Artists, as of those who honour me by their notice, and that if my gratitude therefore for distant kindness be not immediately expressed, they who bestow it must be well assured that it is not the less sincerely felt. Mr. Johnston and the members of the Royal Hibernian Academy have conferred the distinction of uniting me to their body, on one who feels the compliment as deeply as he values the generosity that prompted it and who will never cease to be interested for the welfare of their Institution as warmly as tho' his birth had more immediately attached him to it.

Let me beg you my dear Sir, after you accept my apology to yourself and have done me the kindness to offer



FRANCIS JOHNSTON
Architect of the Board of Works, Ireland, &
Member of the Royal Hibernian Academy. A.D. 1823.

See page 13, 90 - 93.

between pages 92 & 93

my inadequate excuse and explanation to Mr. Johnston, the noble President of your Society, to make acknowledgements for me to your Secretary whose official letter has remained so blamably unanswered.

The value of human praise tho' if fairly earned and sincerely given, not to be slightly estimated, is I think of less powerful impression with me than the dread of censure where those from whom I apprehend it are objects of my respect. It is no light vexation to me to have shown to my friends in Ireland how much I owe to the indulgence of my academical friends at home, who see too frequent proofs of that defective intellect which can suffer matters of just importance to be thus long neglected. — Our friend Mr. Shee with that variety of talent, genius and attainment which might reasonably justify partial forgetfulness, would be always one of the first to pay instant attention to such gratifying kindness as Mr. Johnston and your friends have bestowed on me, yet he could as gently remind me of my neglect as though it were a venial error and possible to himself. Let me however truly acquaint you, that this letter of acknowledgement and regret would have been written by me to-day had our interview not happened, since I had set apart the morning for this and for similar duties, tho' not indeed attaching to equal fault.

Let me now advert to a more pleasant topic and enquire of you if there is any chance of our having the happiness of seeing Mr. Johnston in England, and of the President of the Royal Academy being enabled to offer his best tribute of respect to the Royal Academy of Ireland. It is in the former character only, that I lay claim to the performance of a duty that would else be so fitly executed by one of your own body, by that gentleman particularly who enjoys from it the same distinction with myself, — let me have confident hope of its taking place, and pray give me the earliest information of the President's intended arrival.

I was delighted to receive your catalogue of the Exhibition I will not ask you to surpass in your efforts the exertions of our own but you commence with an alarming

superiority in numbers. The works sent to the first Exhibition of the Royal Academy amounted but to 136, those presented by your Academy are I perceive 902! I have little doubt of a few years producing as great an improvement in the quality of your art as the present year presents over your former efforts in variety and extent. The salutary effects of yearly competition and its advancing knowledge are indeed incalculable. Great as our Reynolds in every situation must have been, I am as certain of his rapid improvement from the contemplation and comparison of his works in public, as I am of that benefit from the same cause, which has lifted me, from mediocrity and neglect.

I fear I must defer for a day or two my official letter, which it is still necessary that your secretary should receive from me; yet I do assure you that I begin to have doubts of that daggling rule of conduct prescribed by your countryman Mr. Sheridan, (and which I believe he most scrupulously followed) "Never to do to-day what can be put off till tomorrow".

I find I can't afford it. — Tis only for that affluence of Genius, that is proof even against lack of gold.

Believe me to be with high esteem

My dear Sir,

To
Thomas J. Mulvany Esq.
8c. 8c. 8c.

Your most faithful Svt.
THOS. LAWRENCE.

Russell Square,
April 11th 1829.

My dear Sir,

I sincerely regret my not having returned an earlier answer to your last letter. My excuse for the delay and for the haste in which I now write to you is the exceeding hurry of this period, when we are preparing for our Exhibition.

The extreme outward size of the halflength I am about to send is 6 feet — $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches by 5 f. $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches. A .

Kit-Cat of the Duchess of Northumberland 9 feet — $9\frac{1}{2}$ by 3 feet — $8\frac{1}{2}$ and I shall probably send a smaller picture of the three quarters size. I fear a larger work would encumber your rooms or I would send my historical portrait of Kemble as Cato — which would be 11 feet by 8 feet.

The portraits I have named, will be with you by the 18th. Believe me to remain with true esteem and regard

My dear Sir,

Your very faithful svt.

THOS. LAWRENCE.

To
T. Mulvany Esq.
&c. &c. &c.

Russel Square,
April 15th 1829.

My dear Sir,

IT has been a most sincere vexation to me, that I have not yet been enabled to send off the pictures that I mentioned to you, for the R. H. Exhibition. They cannot go till tomorrow, and I then send them possibly with some hazard from the violence of the wind which is now raging here. This ill chance however I must encounter, and (what reasonably may happen), should my pictures arrive too late for the opening of the Exhibition, you will probably either have the goodness to show them in some other private room, or return them to me in their present cases.

An Irish gentleman has been here this morning, of political celebrity Mr. Lawless, a friend of the late Mr. Kemble and I believe of his friend, your present Chief Justice, and he has said so much of the possible popularity of my picture of Mr. Kemble as the character of Cato, that I determine to send it in the hope that the interest heretofore felt for the original and always as I well know so generously expressed towards him, may assist the reception of the picture and thus add to the annual receipts of the Exhibition.

Our own Exhibition has so exhausted the general stock of frames that I am waiting all this time for one or two in which these pictures are to go.

I am making you pay, heaven knows how much in postage and must find some future means of effacing the exaction. In the meantime I beg you to believe me

My dear Sir, Your obedient and very faithful svt.

To

THOS. LAWRENCE.

Thomas J. Mulvany Esq.

&c. &c. &c.

Royal Hibernian Academy
Dublin.

—o—

London 13 Brompton Grove,

August 25th 1822.

JOHN BANIM the Author was born September 1797, he died July 1842.

My dear Mulvany,

YOU are silent I know not why, your last favour to me came by the 2 penny post about a fortnight after its date. I answered it instantly praying of you to send me the promised list for Sir T. Lawrence. Months (two I believe) have since lapsed without a line from you. Have I offended you? I am unconscious of act and deed or thought calculated, — much less intended to have such an effect. I pray you send me a letter to let me know how you and family are, and speak out plainly if I am unworthy of your letters in your own estimation, women and children remain silent towards eachother when they nurse an imagined pique. Such a method I am convinced is not, — cannot be yours. I combat and conquer the supposition as often as it rises and throw it from me as unworthy of our feelings for, and I should hope knowledge of each other.

I will not recourse in this, many topics which your two last letters to me left unanswered from my former ones, perhaps some of mine have miscarried, perhaps you are ill or your family is ill, perhaps anything sooner then that I should imagine there was necessity for caution in a correspondence between us. Over and over I wish from my heart you



WILLIAM T. MULVANY
as little boy painted by the novelist
JOHN BANIM.

were here, it would serve you every way, by sending over the large pictures to Somerset-House, my eyes and senses deceive me if your success would not grow apace. Flattery to a friend when his vital interests are at stake you would not expect from me; and I speak only words of course when I say that if you spread your mind and professional acquirements over canvass it would not be much eclipsed here. I have looked at them all attentively, dating from my recollections of you and I believe you could paint as well as Calcott with his practice and sleight. — As to the first he paints every day; he is full of the second. I think you very like each other. He exhibited this year a kind of companion to your "Smugglers" — a swarm of these gentry alarmed, while unloading, by the clearing up of a mist. It was a glorious morning with a host of white clouds, a sparkling sea, the strand cart with the spray and the human action such as I should have expected from your pencil, drawing and conception. I wish to God you would paint two large pictures. You can have a comfortable home here in the country where all the landscape men live for £ 35 a year, everything is cheap and anything can be got in time by work. Forswear Ireland and all would be well.

I have not been the happiest of the happy since I last wrote to you, Mrs. Banim has been very ill, she had a fall and hurt and premature confinement and her life was despaired of. I should not wish this to be known at present to my family as she is not quite out of danger yet, she grew better and had a relapse. I was not well prepared for the misfortune and it was a heavy time, nurses, doctors and apothecaries with etc. which you know well enough, but what must they be in lodgings? within the last fortnight I have been in bed myself, so all this was not pleasant, in every respect it has left me shattered. But God is our father and I have reason to feel a good and indulgent one.

I saw J. Kirk since and told him Mr. Castello's story, fairly expressing my opinion that he had to consider how he should reconcile that man's contradiction of his announcements to you and me, he seemed to take it quietly enough.

I like Kirk less than ever from a rather ill-acted affectation of gravity and suavity and prudence and what not, partly acquired in Paris, partly from Mr. Croker with whom he dined once, -- to be laughed at -- this I know -- Dont you think story-carrying even in a friend, idling at least? or should not a man be cautious in the first instance and respect himself in the second?

May I beg of you to drop the inclosed in the penny post. Write soon and let me again say I do not think I have merited your long silence; If you think differently say so at once and let me stand a fair trial. I can only add if you point out one word of implied offence, I shall as is my custom instantly say I regret the unconscious word from my heart.

Did I ever say anything to you about our friend Dr. Boyton? -- He had the kindness to take lodgings with me, and over and over proposed to pay his respects to Mrs. Banim when we should be settled. When we were, I called on him and left a card, 6 weeks lapsed and he came not. Passing out of Westminster Abbey of a Sunday he drove by with a servant, -- saw me -- saluted me -- dismounted -- came up to us -- Mrs. B. was with me -- was introduced -- was very polite -- told her he would call to pay his respects, apologized for not having done so -- drove off -- took his hat off -- and I never saw him since. With best remembrance to your family and with Mrs. Banim's regards

To
J. Mulvany Esq.
Circular Road
North Strand
Dublin.

believe me,
to be my dear Mulvany
truly yours
JOHN BANIM.

-----o-----



From a photograph of ANNABELLA C. MULVANY
4th daughter of WILLIAM T. MULVANY of Düsseldorf
Germany and Editor of these letters.

OBITUARIES
OF
PROFESSOR T. J. MULVANY 1845
OF HIS ELDEST SON
WILLIAM T. MULVANY 1885
ROYAL COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS IRELAND
AND OF HIS ELDEST GRANDSON
T. R. MULVANY 1907
CONSUL GENERAL FOR WESTPHALIA
AND THE RHENISH PROVINCES



The death of Thomas J. Mulvany, R. H. A.

WITH sincere sorrow we record the death of our distinguished fellow-citizen, THOMAS J. MULVANY, which took place on Wednesday last at Dirker House, Booterstown. He was in his 66th year.

Mr. Mulvany, whom we had known for many years, and for whom we entertained an esteem commensurate with his great merits, was a most accomplished artist. Many of his works exhibited the highest qualities of painting. An ardent lover of nature, he drew his inspiration from her study, and to this he united the most refined and forcible powers of colouring, of which he was a judicious master.

His drawing was universally admired. It was derived from his profound knowledge of the principles of art which no man of his times understood better, and we always regretted that circumstances narrowed the sphere of his exertions, or he might have taken a position in the school of British art more worthy of his eminent merits.

Some artists can paint a fascinating picture to attract the public eye, and grow famous without understanding anything beyond the mere trick of manipulation. Mr. Mulvany was not of this class. He understood the principles of his profession thoroughly; his science was equal to his taste, and his discernment equal to both. What he did, he did with soul. He was no trickster, but a sterling, genuine, feeling delineator of the beautiful in nature. Look to his production, just engraved, "The Homage of the Heart" so full of exalted devotion and effecting reverence, and you have the key to the character of this worthy man, not less distinguished for correct moral feeling, than elegant manners and enlarged understanding.

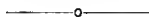
In conversation he surpassed all the men we ever knew. He was forcible, brilliant, witty, imaginative, eloquent. The most polished language flowed from him without preparation or effort. No matter what the subject, his vigorous mind

was able to clasp and dilate upon it with a vigour of argument and felicity of expression, which reminded us of the extraordinary powers attributed to Sir James Mackintosh. And yet he was always modest in the expression of his opinions. He had none of that spirit of boisterous vanity which the possession of such a dangerous weapon usually engenders. He was content to take his due share in the passing conversation, and all who heard him were only anxious that his call on their attention should be more protracted. The society in which he moved so many years lost in him one of its most brilliant ornaments.

But he not only talked well and painted well, he also wrote well. He contributed some papers to the *Citizen*, containing memoirs of the most distinguished of our Irish artists, remarkable for the beauty and nervousness of the style, and the accurate and profound knowledge of art in all essential principles, which these rare biographies everywhere exhibited. He detracted from no man's praise; rather he sought to raise up all his departed brethren, whether in architecture painting, or statuary, to his own high standard of ideal excellence. We understand that he had been for some time engaged in reconstructing these memoirs, and adding others, so as to form a biography of Irish art, for a Dublin publisher. Had health permitted him, it would be as interesting a book as there exists of its character in the English language.

Mr. Mulvany enjoyed the friendship of men of genius and letters in England and Ireland. His society was courted, for it was valuable. Among the friends of whom he always spoke with enthusiasm was John Banim, a man of genius and true warm affections. To his last moments he found in Mr. Mulvany a counsellor and friend. He aided in the preparation of his *Sylla* for the stage, and in the hardest days of his existence Mr. Mulvany was to him firm and faithful.

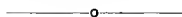
We regret the decease of this good and virtuous man, whom Irish art will find it very difficult to replace. He was Professor and Director of the Hibernian Academy.



Death of Thomas J. Mulvany Esq.

WITH feelings of sincere regret we announce the sudden death of this gifted artist and estimable man, which took place yesterday, at his residence, Cross Avenue, Booters-town, after a few days illness. The pages of this journal have frequently been devoted to the highest praise of Mr. Mulvany's merits as an artist, merits that gained for him, and retained during a long and honourable career, a foremost rank in his profession. Of his social qualities, his vast general information, his great conversational powers, his wit, that truly "ne'er bore a heart stain away on its blade;" his kindly nature and upright mind, the "love, honour, and obedience, troops of friends," that were ever his, bear abundant testimony.

The bereavement of his afflicted family, unprepared for such a blow is irreparable; and the circle in which he moved — those by whom his worth was appreciated — have sustained a loss, the poignant regret for which time only can allay. His pupils, who, while acquiring from him a true knowledge of the first principles of art, received still more valuable instruction from the words of wisdom proceeding from his lips, from the good advice that he had the most winning method of imparting, and who looked up to him as a true friend, will long and deeply mourn his demise. Mr. Mulvany was in his sixty-sixth year.



The Irish Times,
Thursday, November 5, 1885.

The late William T. Mulvany.

IT is with much regret we learn of the death on the 30th October of William Thomas Mulvany, at his residence, Pempelfort, Düsseldorf, in the 80th year of his age, having been born in Dublin on the 11th of March, 1806. Mr. Mulvany, who was the son of the late Thomas J. Mulvany, the eminent artist and Director of the Royal Hibernian Academy, was for

some years a Commissioner of Public Works in Ireland, and for upwards of 60 years connected with important public works both in this country and in Germany. Educated at Dr. Wall's School in Hume street, he was intended for the medical profession, but having obtained an appointment on the Irish Boundary Survey, then commencing, he thenceforward devoted himself with energy to the profession of an engineer, and from the commencement of his career in this, his adopted profession, he seemed to know by intuition what should be done in the most difficult circumstances.

He was a man of indomitable energy and perseverance, qualities which he retained to the last. Mr. Mulvany's principal public services were as follows: — In the year 1825 he was appointed on the Ordnance Survey in Ireland, and was employed chiefly in Ulster and Connaught. In the year 1835 he was engaged on the survey of the River Shannon, on the completion of which he assisted in the preparation of the Shannon Navigation Bill, and on the passing of the Act in 1839 he was appointed under the Shannon Commission one of the two district engineers for carrying out the works. In 1841 he was selected by the late Field Marshal Sir John Fox Burgoyne, K.C.B., Chairman of the Board of Public Works, to assist in the preparation of drainage and fishery bills for Ireland, and to attend their progress through Parliament. These bills were passed in 1842, and he was appointed Commissioner of Drainage and Inspector of Fisheries under the Board of Public Works. He had the chief management of these measures and during the famine years of 1846 and 1847 he also assisted in the preparation and passing of Acts to facilitate the employment of the people, especially on reproductive works; and on the increase of the Board in that year he was appointed a Commissioner of Public Works. He carried out the numerous and extensive measures of arterial drainage which were pressed forward to afford employment of a more reproductive character than the road works which were at first undertaken.

On Mr. Mulvany's retirement on superannuation, he went to reside in Prussia, where he organised and completed

the works of two extensive collieries for an Irish company. These collieries proved so very successful that they were sold for more than double their cost to a German company, who immediately paid him the high compliment of electing him as their president.

Though during the past few years he had given up the immediate control and management of these and other works, he was actively engaged to within three weeks of his death on various commissions for the improvement of navigations, harbours, regulation of railway charges, &c. and he was regarded through Germany as an authority on all matters connected with public works and the development of trade.

The completion of his 25 years in Westphalia was celebrated by a jubilee in Düsseldorf, when numerous deputations waited on him with representations and addresses, and he received congratulations from many parts of Germany, after which he was entertained at a public dinner given by a large number of gentlemen, many of whom were representatives of public bodies, companies, and industries.

He was a Liberal in politics, and a free trader, but from the experience acquired during his long residence in Germany he became, from conviction, a protectionist, or perhaps rather an advocate of "fair trade". Mr. Mulvany was an Irishman of great energy and resource, who, before all things, looked to the advancement of his native land, and it is a suggestive commentary on our system that long experience and abilities of high order, which should have been devoted to the amelioration of this country and the development of its resources, were more highly prized and rewarded in a foreign land.

Düsseldorfer Anzeiger,
Samstag, 31. Oktober 1885.

Hiermit erfüllen wir die traurige Pflicht, unseren Mitgliedern anzuzeigen, dass heute der Begründer unseres Vereins und Ehren-Präsident desselben

Herr WILLIAM T. MULVANY

aus dem Leben geschieden ist.

Ein geborener Irländer, später hoher englischer Staatsbeamter, kam er vor dreissig Jahren nach Deutschland, wo er sich der rheinisch-westfälischen Montanindustrie widmete, um deren Wachstum und Grösse er sich hervorragende Verdienste erworben hat.

Seine bis in die letzten Lebenstage rastlose, unermüdlige Tätigkeit, seine gewaltige, durch keine Macht in der Verfolgung des als richtig erkannten Zieles zu beirrende Energie, seine von grossen Standpunkten und weitem Blicke ausgehende Auffassung befähigten ihn, eine leitende Stellung in der rheinisch-westfälischen Industrie einzunehmen. So konnte er alle Kraft derselben in dem Vereine zusammenfassen, als die überaus schwierigen Verhältnisse während des glorreichen Krieges gegen Frankreich die Wahrung der gemeinsamen Interessen erforderte.

Durch seine wirtschaftliche Tätigkeit eng mit dem neuen Vaterlande verbunden, hatte er, wie die besten Söhne desselben, stolzerfüllt und freudig die Machtentwicklung und Grösse des Deutschen Reiches verfolgt. Sein ganzes Wesen war erfüllt von dem glühenden Wunsche und Streben, durch Festigung und Förderung der wirtschaftlichen und sozialen Grundlagen die ruhmvolle Stellung und das Gedeihen des Vaterlands zu sichern.

So war der Dahingeshedene in den weitesten Kreisen bekannt und hoch geachtet. Aber die ihm näher zu stehen das Glück gehabt, wissen, dass bei diesem Manne so grosse Eigenschaften verbunden waren mit voller Empfindung für alles Schöne und Ideale, mit unvergleichlichem Wohlwollen und unwandelbarer persönlicher Liebenswürdigkeit gegen alle.

Daher begleiten den Verstorbenen nicht allein weiteste Anerkennung und grösste Hochachtung, sondern auch tief empfundene Verehrung und warme, dauernde Liebe und Anhänglichkeit in das Grab.

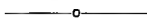
Des viel Betrauten Name wird mit unserem Vereine an erster Stelle verknüpft sein, so lange die Erinnerung an

die Tätigkeit desselben in der Geschichte der wirtschaftlichen und sozialen Entwicklung einen Platz finden wird.

Düsseldorf, den 30. Oktober 1885.

Der Vorstand

des Vereins zur Wahrung der gemeinsamen wirtschaftlichen Interessen in Rheinland und Westfalen.



From the Düsseldorfer Zeitung
of 20th August 1907.

THOMAS R. MULVANY. Gestern nachmittag trug man die sterblichen Überreste des grossbritannischen Generalkonsuls Herrn Thomas R. Mulvany zu Grabe. Der Beisetzung ging eine Trauerfeierlichkeit in der englischen Kirche an der Prinz-Georg-Strasse vorher. Der mit der englischen Flagge bedeckte, unter Blumenspenden fast verschwindende Sarg stand vor dem Altar. Auch die Stadt Düsseldorf hatte es sich nicht nehmen lassen, den Verstorbenen durch Widmung eines prachtvollen Kranzes zu ehren. Nach Beendigung der ergreifenden Ceremonien richtete der englische Geistliche Rev. A. G. Townshend eine kurze Ansprache an die erschienenen Leidtragenden, die das Kirchlein bis zum letzten Platz füllten. Im besonderen gedachte er der Verdienste des Verstorbenen um die Kirche, deren Wohlfahrt ihm stets am Herzen gelegen habe. Unter den Klängen der Musik wurde dann der Sarg aus der Kirche getragen. Welcher hohen Achtung und Verehrung sich der Verstorbene in allen Kreisen der Düsseldorfer Bürgerschaft und weit über den Rahmen unserer Stadt hinaus erfreute, zeigte sich bei dieser Gelegenheit, da es galt, dem Verstorbenen die letzte Ehre zu erweisen. Im Trauergefolge bemerkte man als Vertreter der Stadt Düsseldorf den Beigeordneten Herrn Dr. Zahn. Auch die Regierung hatte einen höheren Beamten als Vertreter entsandt, das hiesige Konsularkorps war vollzählig erschienen. Vor dem Sarge marschierten Deputationen des St.-Sebastianus-Schützenvereins, dessen Ehrenmitglied der Verstorbene ge-

wesen war. Als der Zug den Kirchhof erreicht hatte, sprach der Geistliche noch ein kurzes Gebet über dem Grabe. Und nun schloss sich die Erde über Thomas R. Mulvany, unseren langjährigen, hochgeachteten Mitbürger, der eine Zierde seiner Nation und ein aufrichtiger Freund des deutschen Volkes war. Der Name Mulvany, zu hohen Ehren gebracht durch Vater und Sohn, wird in Düsseldorf unvergessen bleiben. Die an der schlichten, aber erhebenden Feier teilnahmen, gingen heim in dem Bewusstsein:

„Wir haben einen guten Mann begraben.“

LONDON.

NOTES OF THE MONTH.

THE LATE THOMAS R. MULVANY ESQ.

IN the city of Düsseldorf there is no name held in higher esteem than that of Mulvany. The late Mr. Thomas R. Mulvany was born in 1839. He was appointed British Consul in the year 1883. This position he held until 1905, when he was appointed to the higher office of British Consul General for Rhineland and Westphalia. For nearly a quarter of a century he discharged with unswerving fidelity the responsible duties of his office, but while serving his earthly king Mr. Mulvany did not forget that he owed allegiance also to a yet higher Monarch, even to Him Who is King of kings and Lord of lords. The English residents in Düsseldorf have cause to revere the memory of the late Mr. Mulvany on account of his earnest efforts to secure to them a pure and scriptural form of worship. Christ Church, Düsseldorf (the patronage of which is vested in the Church Association Trust) was built by the joint efforts of the late Mr. T. R. Mulvany and his sister, Miss Mulvany, who survives him. The late Consul General was a familiar figure among the worshippers in Christ Church until he was laid aside

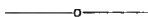
by the illness which proved fatal. He bore his suffering with remarkable resignation and patience, and breathed his last on the morning of Friday, August 16th.

The funeral, which took place on Monday, August 19th, was a most impressive one, and was conducted by the Rev. A. G. Townshend, vicar of Sileby, who represented the Church Association on the occasion. The church was crowded with English and German mourners while the Consuls of other nations sat in seats reserved for them. The service commenced with the hymn,

Hush, blessed are the dead

In Jesus' arms who rest.

Then followed the sentences, the lesson, the hymn "Peace perfect Peace" (the Consul General's favourite hymn), and an address from the Rev. A. G. Townshend. The route to the cemetery was lined by a reverent crowd, whose appearance indicated the affection felt for one who was indeed their friend. At the cemetery a still larger crowd gathered round and listened attentively while the words of our beautiful English burial service sounded in their ears. And so the late Mr. Mulvany was laid to rest side by side with the late Rev. A. A. Isaacs, another valiant witness for the Truth — laid to rest "in sure and certain hope of the Resurrection to Eternal Life through Jesus Christ our Lord".



From the Dictionary of National Biography
edited by Sidney Lee

London, Smith, Elder & Co. 15 Waterloo Place

Mulvany, Thomas James (d. 1845), painter and keeper of the Royal Hibernian Academy, first appears as an exhibitor with the Dublin Society of Artists at the rooms of the Dublin Society in Hawkins Street, Dublin, in May 1809. When the Dublin Society in 1819 disposed of their premises and the artists were without a place of exhibition, Mulvany, with his brother, John George Mulvany, who was also a painter, was one of the most strenuous advocates for the grant of a charter of incorporation to the artists of Ireland. When at length this charter was obtained in 1823 and the Royal Hibernian Academy founded under the presidency of Francis Johnston (q. v.), Mulvany and his brother were two of the first fourteen academicians elected. He subsequently became keeper in 1841. During the last years of his life Mulvany was employed in editing „The Life of James Gandon“ (q. v.) which he did not, however, live to complete, as he died about 1845, while the book was not published until 1846. His son, George F. Mulvany (1809—1869), also practised as a painter. He succeeded his father as keeper of the Royal Hibernian Academy, and occasionally sent pictures to the Royal Academy in London. In 1854 he was elected the first director of the newly founded National Gallery of Ireland, and held the post until his death in Dublin on 6. Feb. 1869.

(Sarsfield Taylor's *Fine Arts of Great Britain and Ireland*; Redgrave's *Dict. of Artists*). L. C.

